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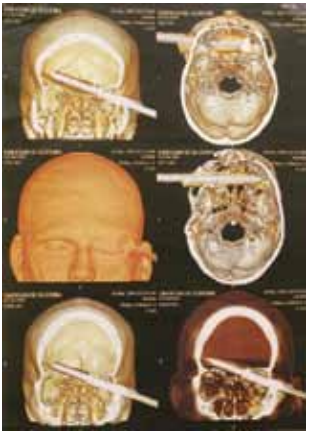
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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Dive Mishap

A Brazilian man goes to a hospital with a spear stuck in his head after a diving accident.

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Corked Off

The spotlight has been turned off of Megan Corkrey on "American Idol."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

40 percent plunge in March auto sales—CADA. PAGE 2

Fitial said he will not appoint Baka as AG. PAGE 3

PROPOSED FY 2010 BUDGET

Fitial asks for \$159.06M

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial is requesting a budget of \$159.06 million for Fiscal Year 2010, a slight increase from the spending limit for 2009, thanks to a small anticipated boost from the U.S. economic stimulus funds.



Fitial

BUDGET REQUEST

■ DPH	\$34,935,008
■ DPS	\$7,883,753
■ DOC	\$2,732,995
■ DYS	\$780,867
■ PSS	\$38,000,000
■ NMC	\$4,251,584
■ MVA	\$5,619,038

The \$15 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act the Fitial administration expects to get will help offset the loss of fees related to Public Law 110-229, which extends U.S.

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Witnesses: Villagomez had already OK'd transaction

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former procurement specialist at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and a former acting chief of CUC Procurement and Supply took the witness stand yesterday in the ongoing jury

trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, both saying they processed the purchase of Rydlyme because Villagomez had already approved the transaction.

Testifying for the U.S. government, former CUC

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'Marianas buildup, not Guam military buildup'



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Guam Lt. Gov. Michael Cruz, right, answers questions from the audience while his chief of staff, Carlotta De Leon Guerrero, looks on during yesterday's opening of the two-day 2009 Economic Restoration Summit at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Regents approve final show-cause report

NMC submits documents to WASC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After careful review, the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents approved its final show-cause report during a meeting Wednesday and the documents were immediately submitted to the Western Association of Schools and College.

It was learned that copies of the show-cause report were provided to individual regents prior to the meeting Monday and Wednesday.

The accrediting commission expected the report last April

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez presents the April 1, 2009 show-cause report to the NMC Board of Regents at Wednesday's meeting.

Guam Lt. Gov. Michael Cruz yesterday said he and Gov. Felix P. Camacho propose to rename what has long been known as the Guam military buildup to "Marianas buildup," and both look to forming a regional economic task force to tap a projected \$2 billion to \$4 billion in annual defense-related contracts associated with the influx of military personnel on Guam.

Cruz was the keynote speaker at yesterday's opening of the two-day 2009 Economic Restoration Summit, which drew over a hundred businessmen

and government officials from the CNMI and Guam.

He talked about the growing need for a regional approach to

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Local



NEW SHEFA LAW

As Rep. Justo S. Quitugua looks on, Gov. Benigno Fitial signs House Local Bill 16-22 into law, allowing more students the chance to obtain SHEFA funds.

KRISTI EATON

40 percent plunge in March auto sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

An average of one new vehicle was sold daily in March, compared to almost two a day during the same month last year as the economy continues its downward spiral.

Automotive dealers sold 31 new cars, trucks, vans and sports utility vehicles in March, a 40-percent drop from 52 a year ago, data released yesterday by the three-member Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association showed.

This brings to 95 the total number of new vehicles sold during the first quarter of 2009, a 50-percent plunge from 190 sold during the same period last year.

The number of used or sec-

ondhand vehicles sold—33—was more than two units compared to new units sold in March.

Micro Corp. sold 13 new Toyota units in March, a 48-percent drop from last year's 25.

Triple "J" Motors, the authorized dealer of new Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda, sold 12 new units both in March 2008 and 2009.

Joeten Motors, meanwhile, sold only six new units in

March, a 60-percent drop from a year ago. Joeten Motors is the authorized dealer of new Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia.

Cars remain the vehicle of choice, with 22 units sold in March, followed by six SUVs, two trucks, and one van.

Of all the makes and models, Mazda3 topped the sales chart with six units in March, followed by five new units each of Toyota Corolla and Toyota Yaris.

Untalan, Tinian mayor's chief executive officer, passes away

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

John Untalan, the chief executive officer of the Municipality of Tinian, died of an apparent heart attack Tuesday night at the Commonwealth Health Center. He was 43 years old.

Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas confirmed Untalan's passing yesterday, saying his staff's sudden death was a big shock to him and the Tinian people.

According to a report, Untalan was rushed to the hospital about 10pm Tuesday night and was declared dead 11:30pm by attending physicians.

Untalan is survived by his wife Gladys and six children.

Untalan's wife told San Nicolas that her husband was about to check in at a local hotel when he complained of dizziness and chest pain.

"An ambulance was called and he was immediately taken to the hospital. But around 11:30, he was declared dead at the Saipan hospital," San Nicolas said.

Untalan's body was still at CHC as of press time.

The family will be hosting a rosary at the San Jose Church on Tinian everyday next week at 8pm, except on Thursday and

Black Saturday.

Untalan's four sisters who are living off-island are expected to arrive for his burial.

San Nicolas said that Untalan traveled to Saipan supposedly to meet with the Legislature about Tinian's budget for Fiscal Year 2010. The official was also scheduled for other meetings on behalf of the municipality.

Untalan is also currently a board trustee for the Marianas Public Land Trust. Prior to becoming the mayor's chief executive officer, Untalan served as a licensing officer for the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, mayor's office representative, mayor's chief operating officer, and executive director of the Tinian Municipal Council.

San Nicolas disclosed that Untalan's appointment to the mayor's office started during his term.

"I have seen the dedication, professionalism, commitment, and loyalty of this man. I have high regard for his capability and performance. He has done a lot of good works and progress serving all these positions," San Nicolas said.

The mayor yesterday appointed William Cing as the municipality's acting executive officer.

50 prospective jurors sought in ex-probate administrator's trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court wants to summon 50 prospective jurors in the upcoming jury trial of a former estate administrator who is facing charges of wire fraud and money laundering.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson yesterday ordered the Clerk of Court or his authorized deputy clerks to randomly select by electronic method 50 prospective jurors for the trial of Luis Kaipat Pelisamen.

Munson said the panel of 50 jurors will be selected from a jury pool of 73 prospective jurors.

After the selection, the judge authorized the Clerk of Court or his deputy clerks to issue summons to these 50 jurors for their appearance on April 20, 2009, at 8am or at any date and time

following the conclusion of the ongoing jury trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants.

The jury trial of Pelisamen was set for April 20 at 9am.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Pelisamen in January 2008 following an indictment that charged him and attorney Joseph Aldan Arriola of stealing \$625,575 from the Rita Kaipat estate's account.

The FBI has yet to arrest Arriola, who reportedly fled the CNMI.

Pelisamen used to be the administrator of the Kaipat estate. Arriola served as Pelisamen's counsel in that probate.

Then Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama kicked out Pelisamen and Arriola from the probate after finding that some money in the estate was missing.

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Fitial says he will not appoint Baka as AG

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial said he will not appoint acting Attorney General Gregory Baka to the position of AG, while Baka says some in the public do not understand the role of the position.

Fitial, in a news briefing yesterday, said he does not understand why having Baka hold the position of acting AG is an issue.

"I don't know why this is an issue. ...He became acting attorney general by virtue of succession," the governor said.

"When I leave, the lieutenant governor takes over. No one has to appoint the lieutenant governor as acting. That's by succession, and that's by the Constitution. Whenever the governor is away, the lieutenant governor takes over," Fitial added. "Same as Mr. Baka. He's the deputy attorney general. When the attorney general is not here, the deputy takes over."

Baka succeeded to the position of acting attorney general on Sept. 28 in the absence of an appointed AG, after Matthew Gregory stepped down from the post. Under the Commonwealth Code, the governor or designee is required to submit the nomination to the Senate, or when applicable, the House, within 30 days of the person being temporarily appointed. If the Senate,

and when applicable, the House, does not confirm the appointment of the person holding the temporary appointed position, the position will terminate.

Fitial has not submitted Baka's name to the Senate because, as deputy AG, Baka succeeded to the position of acting AG, Baka earlier said. He noted that his salary remains that of deputy attorney general, his contractual position.

In March, the Senate passed a bill clarifying the law that requires Senate confirmation.

Under the bill, if the governor or his designee does not submit the individual who has been appointed or is otherwise serving in an acting capacity or who has assumed the title of AG, acting AG, or interim AG within 30 days, the individual cannot serve in those positions for two years. If an individual is nominated, but the Senate does not confirm the person within 90 days from the temporary appointed or assumed position date, the position will become vacant and the person nominated can't be re-nominated during the tenure of the appointing administration. If an individual holds the position of AG, acting AG or interim AG after 90 days without confirmation, they will be break-

ing the law. Any contracts, purchase orders or timesheets signed after the 90-day period will be null and void.

The Senate has been vocal in their opposition to Baka, and Senate President Pete Reyes, who authored the bill, earlier said he would use his influence to make sure Baka was not confirmed. In light of the Senate bill, last month Baka notified the assistant attorneys

general and special assistant attorneys general they could be terminated without cause if they do not agree to amended contracts. The amended contracts require the lawyers to serve up to a maximum of 30 days per contract period as acting attorney general, if so appointed.

The governor said he has asked Teresa Kim to be the AG but she declined. The governor nixed the candidates Baka had recommended, but said he has some locals in mind, although he would not say who.

Baka, for his part, said there are many qualified candidates

in the CNMI, but few people are willing to earn a salary \$20,000 less than the public auditor.

"If you want to have a good AG you should raise the salary of the AG to be the same as that of an associate judge of the Superior Court. I think we'd have several highly qualified individuals that I would be delighted to work for."

When asked if he would like to be attorney general, Baka said he'd like to work for someone with the caliber of Jesse Borja, a lawyer and former lieutenant governor.

The public and in particular, the Legislature, needs to understand the role of the AG, Baka said.

"As long as people look at the AG as a sort of a lightning rod, as someone to do a proxy political attack against the governor, for instance, then you have a situation where people who don't understand the role of the AG are making the AG into a position it is not," Baka said during the briefing. "The attorney general is the peoples' lawyer, and as long as the public and the reporters understand that, and

as long as there are resources available to pay the attorneys' salaries so all of our best lawyers aren't all moving to Guam, then I think we can really get something done."

Asked if salary is the main issue, he said public perception of the role was also a factor.

Asked again if he believes the Legislature doesn't understand the role of the attorney general, Baka said: "No, the Legislature does. I think some of the reporters don't."

He said the Legislature should

know the salary is an issue. He noted an increase was proposed around the time they were discussing a bill that would elect the AG, something Fitial said is not a good idea. The governor said there are more elected attorney generals in the U.S. than appointed, including Guam, but it would not be a good fit for the CNMI.

"But I think for a community as small as this, which is very highly political, I don't think it has a place here. In other words, I will be against an elected attorney general," the governor said.



Baka

Fitial to skip DOI biz summit

Gov. Benigno Fitial will not be attending a Department of Interior-sponsored business summit as originally scheduled, in light of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez's trial.

Fitial had been scheduled to attend the 2009 Island Business Opportunities summit in Honolulu next Monday through Wednesday with Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono, but he has decided to stay in the CNMI, he said yesterday during a news briefing. Fitial had made the plans in January.

"Unfortunately, I informed [Office of Insular Affairs'] Nik Pula I will not be able to attend because I feel it will be a disservice on my part when my lieutenant governor is undergoing a court hearing."

Villagomez, along with his sister Joaquin Santos, and then-Commerce Secretary James Santos, are on trial for allegedly bilking the CNMI out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless purchases of Rydlyme, a cleaning and descaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The governor does not plan on attending the trial but will instead "respect the judicial process," press secretary Charles Reyes said.

The business summit will bring together government officials and business leaders from the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Palau, FSM and the Marshall Islands.

Yesterday was the first day of the CNMI's own business summit. It continues into today and is being used to prepare for next week's Interior session. (Kristi Eaton)

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WITNESSES

From Page 1

procurement specialist 4 Rosalia Cabrera Duenas said she saw the signature of the then CUC executive director Villagomez in the document provided by her supervisor.

Shown a document by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Duenas identified it as the memorandum that she prepared in April 1998.

The document was a request for procurement action to process the purchase order for Rydlyme in the amount of \$13,125 from ISLA Sales Micronesia. James Santos, a co-defendant in the case, is the owner of ISLA Sales. His wife, Joaquina Santos, is Villagomez's sister and is also a co-defendant.

Duenas said then purchasing supervisor, Gary Camacho, told her what to type in the justification for the procurement action.

"He [Camacho] dictated the justification because I don't know what Rydlyme is," the witness said.

When asked as to who requested CUC to buy the Rydlyme, Duenas said she saw the signature of Villagomez in the document provided by her supervisor. She said she prepared the purchase order for Rydlyme because when she received the invoice there was a justification to process it.

Ramon Quichocho, lawyer for Joaquina Santos, told Duenas that the message in the document that it's okay to process it was not signed by Villagomez, to which Duenas replied: "Yes, but I know his handwriting."

Quichocho asked if she reviewed what she typed based on what Camacho dictated to her.

"I don't remember. I don't know what to say because I don't know what is Rydlyme," the witness answered.

On the other hand, John Castro Mafnas, the former acting chief of CUC Procurement and Supply and the current CUC warehouse manager, testified that when he was the acting chief of Procurement and Supply, he became aware of Rydlyme because there was a purchase request for the product.

Mafnas admitted seeing the memorandum containing the justification to purchase the Rydlyme that was prepared by Duenas.

He said he signed the purchase order because he was only the acting chief of Procurement and Supply and he saw that Villagomez, as executive director and his boss, had already signed it.

Mafnas identified a document shown him by the prosecutor as a CUC check in the amount of \$13,125 that was payable to ISLA Sales. He agreed with O'Malley that the check corresponds to the purchase order.

Lujan asked Mafnas if the check was payment for Rydlyme. The witness answered, "Yes." But Lujan said the check does not have the word Rydlyme on it. Mafnas again replied, "Yes."

Mafnas also stated that he wrote: "I'm writing this P.O. per Director's OK" on the request for procurement action that was prepared by Duenas.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, Mafnas was still on the witness stand.

Earlier in the proceeding, Villagomez's

counsel, David J. Lujan, completed his cross-examination of former CUC internal auditor Soc Nilo Villanueva.

Lujan asked Villanueva whether he saw any document that said that Villagomez, as executive director, deemed Rydlyme fit for a sole source contract.

Villanueva answered, "No."

Lujan also showed a memorandum dated Jan. 6, 2000, from CUC purchasing supervisor Joseph Fejeran that stated that three vendors were given an opportunity to provide quotations for Rydlyme, but only ISLA Sales responded and was awarded.

When asked as to who is authorized

REGENTS

From Page 1

1, which NMC met by sending the electronic copies yesterday (Saipan time) and submitting the hard copies by mail.

The show-cause report was officially transmitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and to the Accrediting Com-

mission for Senior Colleges and Universities since the report also contains NMC's response on the School of Education's bachelor degree program.

Prepared by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and her management team, the report contains data that supports the college's compliance with team recommendations 1, which deals with integrating planning, program re-

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FITIAL

From Page 1

immigrations laws to the CNMI beginning Nov. 28. The law means a loss of \$7.6 million in labor and immigration fees and \$6.1 million in one-time transfers, for a total of \$13.7 million.

Initial requests made by individual departments exceeded projected resources by \$20 million, so the governor is asking the Legislature to enact cost-cutting provisions. He is asking for reduced work hours or work days across the board; the employer contribution rate to remain at 11 percent; reducing "all other" funds for non-essential services by 20 percent; and limiting per-

sonnel hiring to essential services only.

Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration, said the administration is asking for a 20 percent cut with the austerity measures. This comes out to a 16-hour reduction each pay period or, simply, a four-day workweek. Essential services are excluded from the austerity measures. Further, the governor wants 100 percent reprogramming authority.

"I think that will allow the governor to move funds around, especially when we have such meager resources," Fleming said at a news briefing.

The Legislature has been hesitant to enact cost-cutting measures for this fiscal year.

But, Fleming said, that might be

changing.

"They're beginning see there is a great need," she said. "We've always been discussing this from the very beginning."

Fleming and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos were to meet with some lawmakers yesterday about an austerity measure bill currently in the House that would enact unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays.

Although the submission to the Legislature fulfills the budget requirement, Fitial said he intends to follow it up with a more precise plan once the results of the stimulus funds become certain.

"We are optimistic about the economic benefits to be derived from the

federal stimulus programs and I look forward to working closely with you to make it a reality," he wrote in the submission.

Resources

The Department of Finance estimates gross budgetary resources to reach \$162.82 million in Fiscal Year 2010, which runs from Oct. 1, 2009, to Sept. 30, 2010.

However, some \$4.65 million of this amount is earmarked for tobacco control, solid waste management, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s debt to MPLT. In addition, \$7.67 million will go to payment of debts.

The FY 2010 revenue estimate represents a net increase of \$2.416 million

or 1.6 percent over the current mid-fiscal year estimate.

The total operating budget is \$159.06 million. Of that, \$8.56 million will come from non-general fund resources, like Compact Impact funds and expense transfers to certain special and revolving funds. The remaining balance of \$150.5 million will be funded through appropriations from the general fund.

Essential services account for about 60 percent of the budget:

The remaining 40 percent is allocated for other activities including the Legislative and Judicial branches, as well as the Executive branch, independent agencies, and board and commissions.

MARIANAS

From Page 1

the economic challenges faced by the Marianas.

"I firmly believe that Guam's strategic value would diminish if not for the assets of the CNMI. The complexity of current military operations and the security requirements which accompany them cannot be resolved by one island alone," Cruz told participants in the summit held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan.

Jobs

In his remarks, Cruz said he and Camacho propose a regional program in which the CNMI government will share experts with Guam for up to four years, with taxes paid to the Commonwealth to ensure critical government services.

Cruz said the next four years will increase Guam's need for tax enforcement officers, building inspectors, environmental health inspectors, policy specialists and public safety officers.

Although Guam will train its people to meet the increased demand, the number of needed positions requires that it finds other sources such as the CNMI.

"If the CNMI has an excess of these officials, we believe our governments can engage in a program of shared expertise during the peak years of the buildup," he said.

The program, according to Cruz, would allow the region to share in Guam's future prosperity and by giv-

ing jobs to people.

Opportunities

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in his welcoming remarks, recognized the military buildup and the federal stimulus funding as opportunities for the islands.

The summit identified agriculture, aquaculture, edu-tourism and call centers as alternative industries for the CNMI, and brought together experts, entrepreneurs, lawmakers and other policymakers to help develop these industries.

Results of the summit will be presented at the U.S. Department of the Interior-sponsored Business Opportunities in the Islands Conference in Hawaii from April 6 to 8.

In an interview, Cruz recognized the CNMI's growing interest in agriculture and aquaculture which on Guam, "unfortunately, is sort of a dying industry because of multiple concerns, and the increasing price of land."

Reducing the cost of shipping goods from the CNMI to Guam, he said, is a key area of cooperation.

"Gov. Felix Camacho has been very strong about ensuring the region benefits from the prosperity that Guam is going to see. A healthy region is a healthy Guam, and a healthy Guam should mean a healthy region," Cruz said.

He added that the Marianas buildup recognizes the various impacts the military relocation will have on the islands, which need to work collaboratively to share in the success coming their way.

"This region must deal with a higher military profile, a large population in-

flux, and a severe lack of skilled labor. If we do not meet our challenges together, we will be divided by them..." he added.

To implement this concept, Cruz and Camacho propose the creation of a regional economic task force that will use the Marianas buildup as the initial engine to address the region's economic concerns.

The proposed economic task force is seen to explore continued collaboration on the guest worker program to ensure new federal regulations address the region's shared concerns.

Accompanying Cruz on Saipan for the summit was his chief of staff, Carlotta De Leon Guerrero, a former TV anchor on Saipan.

Difficulties

Businesses in the CNMI and Guam experience significant difficulty identifying federal contracts and obtaining them, according to Cruz.

While companies with Guam addresses transacted approximately \$250 million with the federal government last year, only less than 10 percent of the companies in Guam actually performed the work, he said.

"With a projected \$2 billion to \$4 billion per year in defense-related contracts associated with the buildup, companies throughout Guam, the CNMI and Micronesia must participate in these good times, especially after we survived the hard times," said Cruz.

Over the next four years, Guam's population is expected to grow by 28 to 30 percent—the equivalent of some 22 years of population growth occurring

in less than a third of that time.

Cruz said the government of Guam is spearheading efforts to prepare for the buildup, but these efforts are not for the military alone.

A dramatic increase in the population requires an upgrade to public services such as health, education, public safety, cultural preservation and economic development.

No easy solutions

Fitial, in his welcoming remarks at the summit, said it's not an easy task to develop promising new industries because of a dramatic change in the economic environment.

For example, the CNMI no longer holds its traditional competitive advantages such as local control of minimum wage rates, local control of immigration, and duty-free access to U.S. markets via Headnote 3(a) provision.

There may be no easy solutions, he said, but the Economic Restoration Summit represents a "good, healthy starting point."

Fitial thanked former Supreme Court chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz and others for publicly calling for an economic summit to discuss the CNMI's problems. He also thanked Commerce Secretary Michael Ada for organizing the summit along with other public and private sector agencies such as CDA, Northern Marianas College, and IT&E.

The well organized summit, co-sponsored by the Department of Commerce and the Commonwealth Development Authority, identified agriculture, aquaculture, edu-tourism and call centers as alternative industries for the CNMI.

Commerce Secretary Ada presented the Commonwealth Economic Development Strategy, which serves as a master plan for the CNMI's economic development. Among the priority projects involve the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., inter-island super ferry, alternative energy, and housing. Ada also provided an update on CNMI efforts to tap into the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or the federal stimulus package.

Dr. Arthur L. Smith, president of consulting firm Management Analysis Inc., said with half-a-billion dollar in proposed projects, the cost of which is more than three times the CNMI's annual budget, there is increased opportunity for public-private partnership.

He cited as examples the CUC power plant 1, Garapan Elementary School, Garapan redevelopment, Pinatang Beach Park, alternative energy and international sports complex as areas in which public-private partnership can benefit the CNMI.

Sergio Loya, project manager of MAI, presented the results of discussions on aquaculture, agriculture and edu-tourism. Each was followed by presentations of experts and entrepreneurs, including Dr. Shaun Moss of the Oceanic Institute who talked about aquaculture; businessman Tony Pellegrino, who talked about agriculture (**see related story on Page 8**); and Wayne Pangelinan, who talked about edu-tourism.

The summit was broadcast through video teleconference to Rota and Tinian participants, who were also able to ask the presenters questions.

REGENTS

From Page 4

view, and budgeting; and team recommendation 2, the institutionalization of the program review process.

The accrediting body placed NMC on show-cause status in February 2008 after finding out that seven recommendations were not fully complied with. In January 2009, the commission placed the college on continued show-cause status until the two remaining recommendations are met.

The question of whether NMC will retain its accreditation will be decided during a scheduled commission assembly in June.

Areas that were resolved by NMC in the reports included student learning outcomes, employee evaluations, facility renovations and repair, and administrative capacity.

On April 20, a visiting team is expected to arrive to verify the final report. The group, composed of three commission representatives, will then submit their team visit report to the commission's full board.

Fernandez stressed that the college remains accredited by ACCJC/WASC during the show-cause period; all academic credits and degrees from NMC are ac-

credited and will be transferable to other accredited institutions.

"We are extremely proud of the work placed forth by students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the board members to complete the April 1, 2009, report," said Fernandez during her presentation to the regents. She said many people worked long nights and weekends to ensure that the report contains concrete evidence of the efforts completed to meet accreditation requirements.

"We are especially thankful for the continued support demonstrated by executive and legislative branch leaders, U.S. Representative Gregorio Sablan, and many, many community members," added Fernandez.

The report, she said, was approved by the college council, which is the lead governance group at NMC that includes representatives from faculty, staff, and students.

During the meeting, members of the Board of Regents commended the students, staff, and faculty members for their work in ensuring that the college accreditation is reaffirmed.

"Many people worked around the clock to make sure the college continues its critical role of providing higher educational and professional growth opportunities," said Malua Peter, acting chairperson of the Board of Regents.

Part of stimulus funds to go to personnel costs

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration is planning to use \$8 million in federal stimulus stabilization funds to stave off government layoffs for the remaining of the fiscal year.

The CNMI is poised to soon receive \$43 million in funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Majority of the stabilization money will go to the Public School System. But 18 percent, or \$8 million—available at the governor's discretion—will go toward personnel, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos said yesterday at a news briefing.

"The governor is mindful of the fact this furlough or this reduction in work hours will have on the families," Inos said. "He's given instructions for

the stimulus team to look into stabilization funds to avert any layoff of employees in the government."

The earmarked funds should be available in 30 to 45 days, Inos said. This will keep thousands of government employees from being laid off.

With the recent passage of the \$156.76 million Fiscal Year 2009 budget, the administration said they would be forced to lay off employees in order to stay within the spending ceiling. The Legislature overrode the governor's veto of the budget bill. The administration had called for cost-reduction measures, such as unpaid holidays, austerity Fridays and a lower Retirement contribution rate.

Despite the veto, the budget became law last month, and, im-

mediately after, the administration said they would be forced to lay off employees or run out of money by the summer.

The goal is to keep everyone with a job, the Finance Secretary said.

"The governor is very adamant," Inos added.

The administration will hold off letting people go until the money comes in. Five contract employees, however, have received non-renewal letters, and since some contracts expire April 11, there could be more non-renewals. But once the stimulus funds come in the employees can be re-hired, Gov. Benigno Fitial said.

Inos said allowing citizens to keep their jobs is a priority.

"We're talking about the livelihood of these people. We don't

have the luxury with the kind of insurance the folks in the U.S. have," he said, noting that without a job people do not have health insurance.

In the CNMI, unlike the U.S., the jobless are not able to receive unemployment checks, Inos added.

Fitial, for his part, said someone must like the administration, noting that in Fiscal Year 2008 a last minute payment of \$17 million in cover over funds from the Internal Revenue Service gave the government a slight surplus. The \$17 million was a part of a total of \$50 million the CNMI received, he said.

"Again it's a relationship. I went to the Treasury, and I spoke to the right people, and they came through," the governor added.



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Alleged non-payment of tow services prompts suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
 ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

A company filed yesterday a lawsuit in federal court against a Guam corporation for allegedly refusing to pay for harbor operation services.

Mid Pacific Salvage Inc. sued the International Bridge Corp. for breach of contract.

Mid Pacific, through lawyer Timothy H. Bellas, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order International Bridge to pay \$101,512.41 in compensatory damages. The plaintiff also demanded interest, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Bellas stated in the complaint that on Dec. 31, 2003, Mid Pacific and International Bridge executed a charter hire agreement for services to be performed in early 2004. The services were to begin on Saipan, going to Wake Island, and back to Saipan.

In order to perform the services, Bellas said, Mid Pacific provided a harbor motor tug named *Lady Mariana*. In addition, the lawyer said, Mid Pacific provided a master and four crewmen.

Bellas said International Bridge provided a seagoing motor tug named *June T*, and a barge named *Martha E*, originating from Guam.

Under the understanding, the larger *June T* would tow the *Lady Mariana* as well as the barge to Wake Island and back to Saipan.

Mid Pacific rendered the services from Jan. 6, 2004, to Feb. 21, 2004.

Bellas said the total cost for the services was \$191,512.41. Bellas said International Bridge made only one partial payment of \$50,000 on May 21, 2004.

International Bridge, the lawyer said, performed crane services for one of plaintiff's clients on Oct. 31, 2005, in the amount of \$40,000. This amount, Bellas said, was also deducted from total now due and owing to Mid Pacific.

"Plaintiff has made numerous demands for payment from International Bridge and it has refused and continues to refuse to make payment to plaintiff," he said.

As of the filing of the suit, Bellas said, International Bridge owed the plaintiff \$191,512.41 minus \$90,000 equals \$101,512.

By the terms of the agreement, the lawyer said, plaintiff provided the *Lady Mariana*, a master and four crewmen to International Bridge for a harbor operation in Wake Island.

In February 2004, Bellas said, defendant breached the agreement by failing to pay for the services rendered.

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'Give the mayors a free hand to adjust budget'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers and officials representing Saipan, Tinian, and Rota yesterday are supporting a proposal to give municipal mayors a free hand to adjust their budgets so they could keep

30 Tinian farmers, ranchers may be displaced by the US military

A significant number of farmers, ranchers, and hog raisers on Tinian are expected to be displaced if the U.S. military decides to fully utilize the property it leased on the island.

According to the Tinian Legislative Delegation, up to 30 ranchers and farmers—about 80 percent of the island's agriculture sector—would be affected and the municipality needs to find a site soon for their relocation.

Delegation chair Sen. Joseph Mendiola said final plans detailing what specific part of Tinian will be used for military exercises and training will be presented to the island's leaders in July.

The U.S. military holds the lease to about two-thirds of available land on Tinian.

"We don't know yet the final plans for Tinian. Up to this time, we're still waiting word from the military, which is also coordinating with the municipality and the governor. [There is] no final word yet if all two-thirds of Tinian would be used for their training sites," he said.

Without the military's confirmation, the delegation cannot plan for the future of its farmers and ranchers, Mendiola said.

Although the Tinian community is counting on the positive economic impact of the buildup,

their employees.

The proposal to decentralize budget decisions comes on the heels of the Fitial administration's plan to furlough or terminate the contracts of non-civil service employees in order to cut personnel expenditures this fiscal year.

they are also concerned about possible displacement.

"A lot of farmers and ranchers would be displaced if they [U.S. military] decide to use the entire two-thirds of Tinian," Mendiola said.

The senator said some public lands on Tinian may be identified as new sites for the farmers and ranchers.

If it were up to him, Mendiola said, he prefers that the military use the North Field as an exclusive military training ground.

He added that the island's airport is close to the U.S. military's leased property and problems may arise if the area is used for live-fire training and other military exercises.

The transfer of some 8,000 Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam starting in 2012 is projected to benefit the CNMI, particularly Tinian.

However, Mendiola said, even the approximate number of U.S. Marines who will be assigned to Tinian is not known yet.

"Even that number is not available to us...we're still on a 'waiting game,'" he said, adding that whatever recommendation the CNMI leadership may have for the military would be supported by the delegation. *(Moneth Deposa)*

Rota Sen. Paul Manglona disclosed that nearly a hundred employees on Rota may be affected.

"If the municipality's shortfall is equivalent to a 10 or 20 percent cut in their budget, I think we need to give each mayor the opportunity to decide where best to cut. If the mayor sees the need to reduce the employees or terminate some, let's give them that because they know better their operation and priorities," Manglona said.

Unlike Saipan, Rota lacks employment opportunities for its people, he said.

"Our intention is to give our people jobs that they need for their families. If there are other

areas the Rota municipality can adjust on the budget such as supplies and power, we can look at those options," he said.

Manglona will recommend to Mayor Joseph Inos the possibility of not filling replacement positions, including those who are about to retire within the year.

Salary adjustments such as merits and step-in increases are also among the areas to be considered.

If all these are not feasible, that's the only time the municipalities can make "sacrifices" such as work hour cuts.

"No matter what the number of hours is...as long as the employees regularly receive an income that's good enough for

them," he said.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Joseph Mendiola said that reduction of work hours of up to 20 percent may also be recommended to the Tinian Mayor's Office.

"Our recommendation would be to reduce the work hours. ... It becomes a choice between keeping the job and lesser income...and we prefer the less income for our employees because we understand the obligations each family needs to fulfill," Mendiola said.

For this reason, Mendiola said the Legislature needs to adopt austerity holidays, which calls for the non-key government agencies to shut down operations every other Friday.

Tinian has 139 employees, most of whom the mayor wants to keep at least until September. It was earlier disclosed that some \$500,000 to \$800,000 is needed to sustain its personnel cost.

"We're looking at how long we can go. We are carefully evaluating all options," Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The mayor was earlier eyeing a 60-day furlough for all employees.

On Saipan, Mayor Juan B. Tudela earlier disclosed that he wants to keep all his 64 employees until the end of the fiscal year in September. He is also willing to cut salaries rather than lay off employees.



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Pellegrino expands business with US military

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businessman Anthony Pellegrino started supplying the U.S. military commissaries on Guam with 135 lbs of local produce and 14 lbs of reef fish on Wednesday, just a few months after exporting fresh chilled shrimps to them.

Pellegrino is the first and only businessman from the CNMI to be able to supply fresh produce to the Guam military.

Through his Saipan SyAqua, Pellegrino also supplies shrimps to Guam's commercial markets such as hotels and restaurants.

In yesterday's opening of the two-day Economic Restoration Summit, Pellegrino said entrepreneurs should build up trust and confidence with the U.S. military if they want to do business with them.

He shared a story about a Rota farmer who supplied the U.S. military with rotten sweet potatoes that had been mixed with fresh ones.

"A key military official said



Businessman Anthony Pellegrino conducts a presentation in yesterday's opening of the two-day Economic Restoration Summit.

they don't want to do business with that farmer again. Trust is important. If you break that trust, you don't get

it back," he said.

In another instance, the fishermen he was supposed to do business with failed to deliver

fresh fish that was to be shipped to Guam.

In an interview, Pellegrino said he has seen entrepreneurs and others in the CNMI "who talk so much and do so little."

"They just want to sit and ask for grants and let the government do it for them and open the doors for them...As I keep saying, I am your catalyst but I don't want to be part of the program once it's formalized. I will step back and give it to you," said Pellegrino, who also founded the Marianas Trades Institute.

He said the economic summit was able to get the "feeling" of people about the economy and the potential for growth.

"I think it's very healthy. But once we're finished talking, get out that door, let's do it, let's act," he said, adding that he put up most of his businesses with no help from the government. "I did it on my own. I had failures and I will have more failures but if you don't fail you won't succeed."

High freight cost

The military, according to Pellegrino, presents a "huge potential" for farmers, ranchers and entrepreneurs in the CNMI.

But he said the high freight cost of about 95 cents a pound and other charges is a major concern in shipping his fresh products to Guam.

"We are trying to get it down by 40 to 45 cents which I think we will be able to get with a charter flight. It's still under negotiation," he told *Saipan Tribune* after his presentation.

Pellegrino, described during the summit as the quintessential entrepreneur, is now also looking into producing organic food on Saipan, with Japan as the target market.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 3, 2000

CDA delinquency rate up 2 percent

The Commonwealth Development Authority has recorded a two percent increase in delinquency rate, indicating a distressing growth in the number of re miss borrowers during the first three months of the year, Board Chair John S. Tenorio said. The two percent rise in the January-March loan payment delinquency brought to 15 percent the development authority's overdue collectibles. CDA reported a 13 percent delinquency rate by end-December 1999. Mr. Tenorio said if the increase in the delinquency rate of the government's prime lending agency would continue at the first quarter level, it may translate to more than \$2 million in unpaid and overdue collectibles from its \$80 million portfolio each year.

Officials urge NMI residents: 'Be counted'

The federal government deployed close to 300 enumerators and field supervisors throughout the Northern Marianas Saturday, marking the start of the CNMI-wide Census 2000 which is being carried out once every 10 years. Census 2000 Area Manager Sohale Samari said celebrity households including those of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, Bishop Thomas Camacho and Saipan Mayor Jose Sablan were the first to be enumerated. Mr. Samari said enumerators, crew leaders and field supervisors were divided into four major teams which were dispatched to do door-to-door interview of all the households on Saipan. There is one team each to carry out enumeration on Tinian and Rota.

APRIL 3, 2001

Better days ahead for the CNMI

Slight upsurge in the tourism industry and growing business confidence have given the Northern Marianas economy the extra push to reach the \$2-billion mark by end-December 2000. A report released by the Tenorio Administration indicated that Business Gross Revenues is likely to soar 1.6 percent, or amount to \$2.140 billion, for the end of the year 2000. This growth is primarily spurred by the 5.3 percent increase in visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas last year. Records from the Marianas Visitors Authority disclosed the entry of close to 530,000 tourists into the islands in 2000.

Nanny sued for child abuse

A Nepalese woman is standing trial for allegations that she intentionally dropped a nine-month old child on the floor while babysitting the infant on Feb. 29, 2000. Parents of the child caught the alleged abuse on a recorded home video installed inside the master bedroom in their San Vicente home. During a bench trial in Associate Judge Virginia Sablan-Onerheim's courtroom yesterday, the couple in separate testimonies stated that after coming home from work that day, they reviewed the afternoon tape which showed footage of defendant Manju Pandey dropping their child twice on the floor.

APRIL 3, 2002

San Antonio school vandalized

The staff and faculty of San Antonio Elementary School are spending what's left of the spring break cleaning up an enormous mess caused by unidentified suspects on majority of the public campus' classrooms. Tobet Smith, the school's acting principal, said yesterday they are trying to restore the classrooms and salvage school appliances which were trashed by unknown trespassers over the Holy weekend. School personnel are trying to finish the cleanup in time for the resumption of classes on Monday. Fifteen of the school's 17 classrooms, including the Headstart facility, were torn upside down. "Paint was sprayed on walls, fire extinguisher spattered on the floor and on electronic appliances," Smith said in an interview.

US Marines leave Tinian

The U.S. Marines stationed on Tinian have begun leaving the island, after the conclusion of the recent Millennium Edge military exercises, with the first batch taking off Monday last week and the last batch set to leave on April 8. According to Tinian Rep. Norman S. Palacios, the U.S. Marines begun leaving the island in batches since March 25. "All the soldiers are leaving and I understand that their last day will be on April 8. After that, though, a new batch will be coming in and I think even Guam's National Guard are also going to come in, about 200 of them," said Palacios yesterday. He did not specify the specific date of the arrival of the new batch of U.S. soldiers or of the National Guard members but he added that it will be "very soon."

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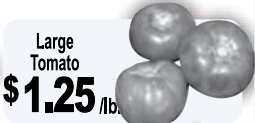
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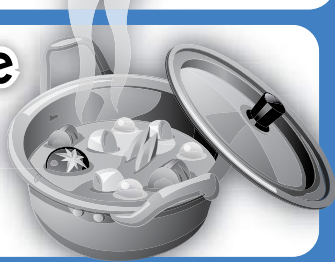
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

In defense of genocide

For decades, summit meetings of the Arab League have resounded with rhetoric about the alleged “double standards” of the West in enforcing U.N. resolutions or respecting international law. No communique of the group—including the one issued from its summit this week in Doha, Qatar—has been complete without a demand that conflicts be resolved “within the framework of international legitimacy.”

So it was interesting to see what else was in the latest statement issued by the kings, princes and authoritarian presidents of the Middle East and North Africa. First there was a call on “the international community to prosecute those responsible” for alleged “war crimes” committed by Israel in its recent offensive in Gaza. Then came an ardent defense of Sudanese dictator Omar Hassan al-Bashir—who was welcomed to the Doha summit despite an outstanding arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court on multiple war crimes charges.

“We stress our solidarity with Sudan and our rejection of the decision” of the ICC, said the communique, which Mr. Bashir welcomed in a bombastic address to the summit plenary. Leader after leader declared fealty. “We must also take a decisive stance of solidarity alongside fraternal Sudan and President Omar al-Bashir,” said Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

See IN DEFENSE on Next Page

The first green step

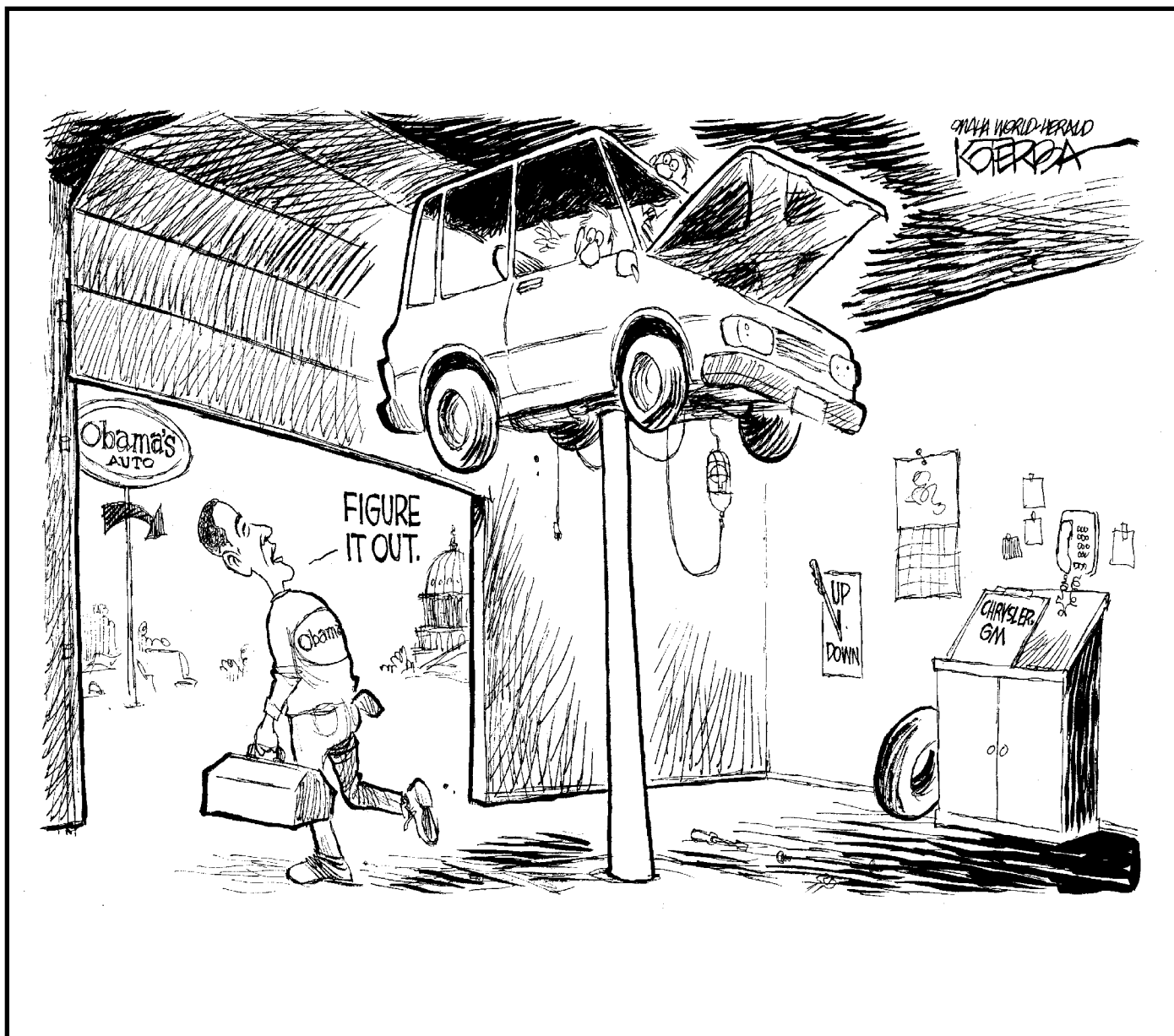
The lack of concrete data on which facilities were emitting greenhouse gases and how much they were spewing into the atmosphere led to a major flaw in the European Union’s cap-and-trade system: the over-allocation of pollution permits to industry. This mistake led to the collapse of the carbon market. Thanks to action taken by the Environmental Protection Agency this month, the United States will not make the same mistake.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson issued a proposal to establish a greenhouse gas registry. This is the first step in a process that will lead to the development, discussion and implementation of a program that will tabulate the amount of carbon dioxide, methane and other gases from about 13,000 large industrial facilities that emit more than 25,000 metric tons or more a year each. The EPA estimates this would cover 85 to 90 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. The plan, required by Congress but ignored by President George W. Bush, must be in place by June 26.

Collecting this data would also be the first step in devising a cap-and-trade system that President Obama wants to use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. He wants to auction 100 percent of the pollution permits to generate \$650 billion over the next 10 years. But there’s one small wrinkle in this. The first report from the EPA would be submitted in 2011 for emissions in 2010. Obama’s budget plan submitted to Congress anticipates the cap-and-trade system being in place by 2012. In short, there’s a question as to whether there will be enough data on which to base the carbon caps.

The administration should consider ramping up voluntary greenhouse gas inventory plans already underway such as the Climate Leaders program at the EPA and the Energy Department’s Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program. This would bolster the effort to get as much solid information as possible. And it would help to ensure that the United States avoided making Europe’s mistakes.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



More time to address federalization issues

Today, I join many people in our community in expressing thanks and gratitude to Janet Napolitano, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, for agreeing to delay the implementation of federal immigration rules for the CNMI. I am very grateful to the federal government for acknowledging the serious economic concerns we have raised regarding the implementation of this sweeping new federal immigration law.

In February of this year, I wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security seeking an extension of the effective date of the provisions of Public Law 110-229. I have also traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with key federal officials, including Secretary Napolitano and Assistant Secretary for Policy, Dr. Richard Barth, to address this crucial issue. During a White House dinner with President Barack Obama, I had the opportunity to personally raise the subject with Secretary Napolitano and she assured me then that she had read the materials I had submitted to the department seeking an extension and would give the matter her careful attention. I am very pleased that this request has finally been granted for the benefit of the people and the economy of the CNMI.

I wish to emphasize that this positive development did not take place because of my efforts alone. I wish to thank all of the interested Guam and CNMI stakeholders who worked so hard to achieve this welcome result, including the Governor of Guam, Felix Camacho; Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, our Marianas Visitor Authority, and the Guam Visitors Bureau. I am also grateful to the CNMI Legislature for supporting our Administration’s efforts to secure this much needed delay of implementation. I also thank all of our partners in the private business sector for submitting comments and uniting behind our government in supporting this important request. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas, among other groups, deserve much credit for contributing to this welcome result. I want to thank all those businesses and individuals in our community who submitted comments on the draft visa waiver regulations. Coupled with our meetings in Washington D.C., I think that these were of great help in getting the extension. I want to encourage our community to continue to voice their views whenever they have an opportunity. I also appreciate the efforts of Lynn Knight, our CEDS chair, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

This result clearly shows how we can all work together to achieve a desired outcome for our islands, and I encourage more common efforts along these lines in the future, because I firmly

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Special to the Saipan TribuneBenigno R. Fitial is the governor
of the Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands.

believe that the CNMI can achieve more progress if all sectors of our government work together, and with the private sector, toward a common goal.

With the approval of this delay, both the CNMI government and the federal government now have more time to meaningfully address the full implementation of this new federal law and minimize adverse economic impacts to our islands, as provided for by law. Because of this development, our private business sector now also has more time to plan ahead, to become better informed, and to better transition into the new federal immigration environment. With this delay, by the time federal rules apply, the CNMI should be able to review and comment on regulations for foreign workers, investors, students and retirees.

This extension also provides more time to resolve any outstanding issues regarding the visa waiver regulations for Guam and the CNMI. And it allows our hotels, retail and dining establishments, and other tourist-related businesses to benefit from an additional six months of visa-free access to our Russian and Chinese tourist markets.

We believe that the Commonwealth has demonstrated that carefully controlled access to the China and Russian tourist markets is of critical importance to our economy and can be continued without interruption consistent with the national security interests of the United States. We look forward to working with the Department of Homeland Security, together with our colleagues from Guam, in adding such additional safeguards to maintain access to these important tourist markets.

My hope is that this six-month delay will give Homeland Security additional time to put in place the necessary equipment, personnel and systems in the CNMI so that we can continue to welcome Chinese and Russian tourists without a single day of lapse. We have been hosting these tourists for more than a decade without any problems and they are a vital part of our tourism industry.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wacky economics

While the world is marinating itself in economic gloom and doom, it's time for the real scoop on the CNMI economy. Yes, there are real opportunities in the CNMI. But to see what is, you've got to also see what ain't.

And, let's be honest, this ain't a "developing" economy, or even a sober one. But it is delightfully wacky. One thing I noticed 13 years ago when I set up shop was that the loudest people running around calling themselves "economists" on Saipan don't even have college degrees on the topic, or in anything related to it. Nor did they know anything about it. They were just career bureaucrats sustained by the CNMI patronage system. It's been a comical show.

But a costly one. The bungling huffery and puffery cost the CNMI most of its economy. Oops. Talk about a pie-in-the-face.

Indeed, you can ignore economic reality, but you can't ignore the consequences of ignoring reality.

So the CNMI crashed itself. The feds aren't to blame; the fall was in place long before labor and wage issues grew teeth. The feds are generously keeping the CNMI on life-support. Don't bite the hand that feeds. It's bad form.

And it's not a dire situation. In fact, there are opportunities in such situations. You just have to know where to look.

Uncle Sam sends out so many millions of dollars to these islands that the financial echoes reverberate. For example, retailing (especially convenience stores), restaurants, bars, legal services, medical clinics, dental clinics, and auto repair shops will always be viable

sectors as long as the checks keep rolling in from the mainland.

I used to be an economist for a company that derived about 80 percent of its sales from poor urban markets in the U.S., so I got to see, first-hand, that there is money to be made in what are, at first glance, unexciting opportunities. In this regard, though not urban, the CNMI's economic structure, especially as the alien labor leaves, is pretty much what I got used to in that old job.

And do you know what? As I saw in that job, those market situations can be incredibly stable once the local area reaches equilibrium. We were locked in a two-way war with our competitor (who was bigger than us), but the aggregate market was shockingly stable and (all things considered) pretty easy to predict. After all these years, parts of the company are still in business (mergers gobbled up the other parts), just where they've always been, chugging along, while more glamorous businesses in richer, more dynamic regions went belly up a long time ago.

Furthermore, since we operated in areas with virtually zero job opportunities, we were able to recruit really bright, hardworking talent from the communities that we served. We promoted our managers from within and we paid them very well. It really was a success story on a lot of levels.

Anyway, back to Saipan's gig. We'll have to see what's going to happen to the alien labor pool, but, whatever happens to it, the CNMI is drifting down into equilibrium; it's just the slope of the line at issue. The direction of it (down) has been a given for 10 years, after the CNMI essentially punted the Japanese tourism market and went into economic Wacky Land.

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and Saipan-Blog.com.



And, let's face it, if the tourism market had zoomed to its potential, we'd have ugly contention over "over-building" in the CNMI. If things had to turn sour, it was better that they turn sour before there are a bunch of vacant, derelict hotels to blight the shore. So I think we dodged the bullet on this.

I've worked in a mighty wide swath of the world, and I can assure you that Saipan is a lot better than most of it. So, don't pine away after alternate realities that don't really exist. This isn't like Hong Kong, or Guam, but it doesn't have to be. Would everyone really be happier if it was? I doubt it.

Yes, all over the world, economic panic is in fashion these days. But as long as the U.S. can afford to support the Commonwealth (note that caveat, since if Uncle Sam goes broke, all bets are off), I don't see any need for alarm. Bottom line: If you want to survive in the CNMI, you'll just have to find where the real opportunities are, instead of pondering the make-believe ones that live in the rainbows.

A first step toward CUC's recovery

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the speech that Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña delivered during the official commissioning of engines 7 & 3 at Power Plant 1 on March 31, 2009, after months of overhaul.

Today is CUC's first concrete step toward full operational recovery in providing required power production to meet demand. It has been a story of persistence and a never say die attitude.

Four years ago in December 2005, Gov. Juan N. Babauta lifted the CUC state of emergency but advised that CUC would not be able buy fuel without a continuing government subsidy. Making matters worse, the engines were in dire need of maintenance and without immediate attention, Power Plant 1 operations will eventually collapse.

In the spirit of Harry Truman, with the "buck" being passed, Gov. Benigno Fitial responded that this "buck" stops here. Despite a reduction of resources of \$30 million in January 2006, the governor ensured that the lights stayed on and remitting \$22 million in government funding through the end of Fiscal Year 2006. In July 2006, an emergency rate increase was implemented, allowing CUC to no longer require any government subsidy to pay for fuel purchases.

A temporary setback occurred due to an artificially imposed and unfunded rate reduction, forcing the governor to again subsidize CUC fuel purchases for a period.

In June 2006, with the Retirement Fund rejecting CUC's application for a \$40 million loan to capitalize needed maintenance, the governor secured \$2.6 million in 2006, \$6.5 million in 2007, and a

final piece of \$3.8 million in 2008 of OIA funding to jumpstart the rehabilitation of Power Plant 1 and bring us full circle here today.

Down to two engines at Power Plant 1 and on the verge of complete operational collapse, the governor secured emergency legislative support to allow CUC to fund a temporary power contract. On Aug 3, 2008, CUC paid Aggreko for temporary power services from loan proceeds secured from the Marianas Public Land Trust. As important, the MPLT loan also provided CUC with enough funds to pay its [independent power producers]—PMIC and Telesource were not paid for many months and were critically challenged in continuing services without financial relief. On Sept. 12, Aggreko delivered an initial 10 megawatts of temporary power, with a full complement of 15 megawatts installed by Sept. 30.

In August 2008, with our local boys at a point of physical and mental exhaustion, legislation was enacted to allow for CUC to employ skilled nonresident labor to bring relief and reinforcement to the maintenance effort at Power Plant 1.

In October 2008, having evaluated bids to overhaul Engines 7 and 5, CUC determined that contracting for the overhaul would exhaust all identified funding not only for the overhaul but also critical improvements to other generators and equipment to ensure reliable targeted power production of 40 megawatts from Power Plant 1. CUC then decided to embark on the overhauls and plant rehabilitation on its own.

In December 2008, the governor was able to secure an additional \$3.8 million from OIA to allow for the Rehabilitation Repair Plan to be implemented. Mr. Wallon Young would join us on Feb. 3, 2009, and, as to plan, we are here today commissioning engines 7 and 3

By ANTONIO S. MUÑA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Antonio Muña is the executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.



to bring 15 megawatts of available power production to the grid on the way to 40 megawatts by Sept. 30, 2009 from Power Plant 1 generators.

It has been a long and tough road to this point and is by no means at an end. CUC continues to be challenged and to fight its way to full financial recovery/solvency, improving and rehabilitating all three utility systems (power, water, and wastewater), plus meeting demands of its customers for reliable power, water and wastewater services.

We are thankful and very grateful for the support of the governor, the Legislature, and OIA and look forward to their continued support as CUC see its way to full recovery.

I would like to especially thank the CUC Power Plant management, staff, and employees who continued to remain dedicated and saw CUC through its darkest (brownouts and blackouts) hours without relief and reinforcement.

And also in gratitude to CUC private sector partners in production—Mobil, Shell, PMIC, Telesource, and Aggreko for their patience and support.

Letter to the Editor

Thoughts of a soon-to-be voter

How intelligent are the voters in the CNMI? Apparently they're not *that* intelligent. I mean all a candidate has to do is talk about who his family is and hey!, that's all you need to know, right? A recent ad of a candidate says it all. No, it really does! It has a complete list that includes his spouse, children, parents, parents-in-law, sibling's spouses, grandparents, and spouse's grandparents. Whew! What a list! I'm convinced I'm related to him somehow. Also, to top it off, squeezed into the bottom is a one-

sentence statement saying that his priorities will "include public health, environment, retirement, education, and tourism." How very specific. Everyone, this is a perfect, winning political ad. For a politician in the NMI, I may add.

However, as a voter I am curious about a few things. To all candidates who are running: What is your take on local issues? What about national issues? As we all know, there is a list a mile long filled with local issues that include Article 12, federalization,

education, and even the governor's lawsuit. I believe that if I, a 17-year-old public school student know about these issues, then so should my representatives. I want a representative who knows just as much, if not more, about local issues than I do. I want a representative who will put a stop to the "jump on the train or you will be left behind" legislative nonsense, and who will be an individual, not part of a group mentality or a pawn in the game of NMI politics. I want a representative who will talk issues, not family, and if all a candidate can talk about is family and general, safe issues, then they cannot count on my vote.

Kalani A. Reyes
San Vicente, Saipan

IN DEFENSE

From Page 10

Mr. Abbas is hoping that the Obama administration will pressure Israel to stop building "illegal" settlements in the West Bank; the next time he utters the phrase "double standard" in the presence of a U.S. diplomat, we suggest a query about Mr. Bashir.

To be sure, some human rights groups have alleged crimes by Israeli forces in Gaza. But, according to Palestinian accounts, 1,409

people were killed during the offensive, of whom a substantial number were armed Hamas fighters. In contrast, the United Nations has reported more than 300,000 civilian deaths in Darfur as a result of the genocidal campaign sponsored by Mr. Bashir. Scores of villages have been systematically burned, and thousands of women systematically raped. Mr. Bashir responded to the ICC's arrest warrant last month by expelling international aid groups from Darfur. The result has been growing food and water shortages and new epidemics, according to the Enough Project.

To their credit, a coalition of Middle East human rights groups






urged the summit leaders not to protect Mr. Bashir. "There should be no immunity for those who have committed crimes," said the Arab Coalition for Darfur. Predictably, the unelected rulers—several of whom could themselves be vulnerable to charges of crimes against humanity—ignored the appeal. If the Obama administration and the rest of the civilized world needed further demonstration of why the promotion of democracy and human rights must be central to any policy for the Middle East, Omar al-Bashir's reception in Doha ought to suffice.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

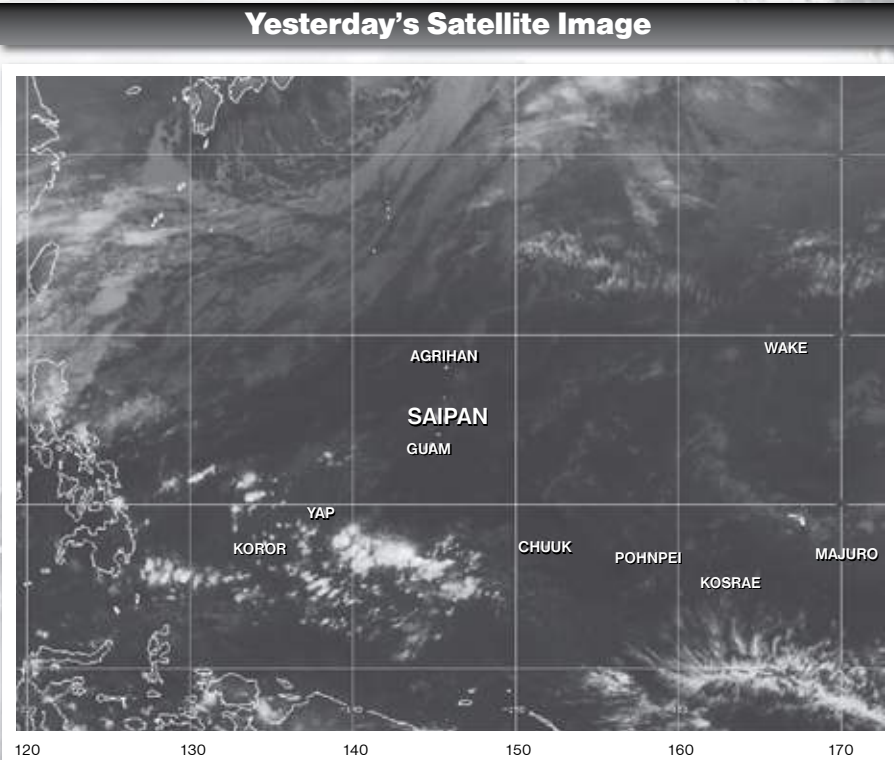
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼75

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲64 ▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲63 ▼45
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲75 ▼70
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▼71
London	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼50
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼76
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲73 ▼48
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼70
New York	Rain	▲56 ▼47
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼47
Paris	Cloudy	▲63 ▼51
Pusan	Cloudy	▲59 ▼42
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼50
Salem	Showers	▲49 ▼31
San Francisco	Sunny	▲57 ▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲48 ▼34
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼46
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲62 ▼45

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:16 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:03 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
12:26 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:33 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from 25N139E southwestward to 20N135E then continues as a shear line beyond 130E at 15N. Scattered light showers are occurring along and up to 60 miles northwest of the cold front and shear line. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered light showers west of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 8N142E to 3N147E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Today	12:32 PM	12:59 AM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Saturday	1:34 PM	1:53 AM
Sunday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM	Sunday	2:33 PM	2:41 AM
Monday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM	Monday	3:30 PM	3:25 AM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM	Tuesday	4:24 PM	4:07 AM

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 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
Saipan-Rota					Rota-Saipan				
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7		CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6	
Saipan-Guam					Guam-Saipan				
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily		CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7	
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily		CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota	
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota		CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6		CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily	
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily		CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily	
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily		CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
Saipan-Narita					Narita-Saipan				
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily		NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily	
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7		NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7	
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily		NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily	
Guam-Narita					Narita-Guam				
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily		NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily	
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily		NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily	
Saipan-Osaka					Osaka-Saipan				
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6		OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7	
Guam-Osaka					Osaka-Guam				
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily		NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily	
Saipan-Nagoya					Nagoya-Saipan				
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily		NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily	
Guam-Nagoya					Nagoya-Guam				
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily	
Saipan-Incheon					Incheon-Saipan				
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7		OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka		OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka	
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily		OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Saipan-Busan					Busan-Saipan				
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7		OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7	
Saipan-Shanghai					Shanghai-Saipan				
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6		FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5	
Rota-Guam					Guam-Rota				
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7		CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6	
Guam-Palau					Palau-Guam				
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7		CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2	
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5		CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6	
Palau-Manila					Manila-Palau				
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5		CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5	
Guam-Manila					Manila-Guam				
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror		CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror	
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily		CO 934	11:10pm	4:05am+1	Daily	
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7		PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7	
Nagoya-Manila					Manila-Nagoya				
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily		NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily	
Incheon-Hongkong					Hongkong-Incheon				
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily		OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily	
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily		OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6	
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7		OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily	
Narita-Manila					Manila-Narita				
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily		NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily	

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com



PARENTS' NIGHT

The Garapan Head Start held its 2nd Parent's Night on March 28, 2009, at the Garapan Head Start Center. Picture shows parents, students, and teachers posing for a picture after the event. Inset shows the parents and students participating in an activity led by Lilia King and Naadeen Macaranas about "Children learn what they live" and "Building the Strongest Pyramid."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A review of Pygmalion

By SYLVIA HAYWOOD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting the musical, My Fair Lady, on two successive weekends in the spring. This is the musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion. Shaw was interested in exploring the power divide between the rich and the poor as well as the differences between accents and ideas of the different social classes. The following is a condensed explanation of Acts I through V of the play, Pygmalion, and will appear on four successive Fridays before the musical is presented at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road. The first part was published on March 20, 2009; the second on March 27, 2009.

Week Three

ACT IV

It is midnight on Wimpole Street and Eliza is tired and pale. She has been a total success in her debut into English society. She astounded everyone at the Ambassador's Ball and many people actually thought she was royalty! Higgins and Pickering are very proud of themselves for pulling off such an experiment. Eliza hears all of this and becomes very

angry. Higgins suggests that possibly his mother can find a suitable man for Eliza to marry, which makes her even more angry. She informs him that she is not for sale and has never been for sale; she is content to be a working woman. Higgins thinks her moral judgment about marriage is foolish.

Eliza wants to know if all the clothes Higgins has bought her belong to her and he tells her that, of course, they are hers. She doesn't want to be accused of stealing them and he is hurt that she feels this way. Eliza also returns a ring that Higgins had given her, not a borrowed piece of jewelry as the others had been, but one that he had bought just for her. He is very angry and throws it into the fire. After he walks out, slamming the door, she looks through the ashes for the ring, happy that she has gotten back at him for some of the really cruel things he has said to her. She has feelings for Henry, but she is unsure about her future.

Next week, will bring the entire adventure to an end, when Eliza will try to decide exactly who she wants to spend the rest of her life with; Freddie who obviously loves her very much or Henry who doesn't appear to like anyone.

Sylvia Haywood is the publicity chairman for the Friends of the Arts.

Tanapag beach site red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on the Tanapag Meeting Hall after water samples collected from the area showed excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. DEQ advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this site for the next 48 hours or until oth-

erwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from the site contained enterococci concentrations that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm

water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Wednesday.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous at the Hyatt with Kendall Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef

Dazzle your taste buds with an array of culinary masterpieces made from the most sought after beef and paired with finest red wines. Certified Angus Beef enjoyed for its tender texture and tasty flavour is available in our restaurants in April and May.

Giovanni's

Enjoy juicy Sirloin, T-bone and Ribeye steaks from a variety of Certified Angus Beef specials. Compliment the meal with our recommendation of a full bodied red from a selection of Kendall Jackson wines.

From April 3rd till May 10th

Set menu at \$75.00 per person or a la carte options available
Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

Kili Cafe & Terrace

Kili Cafe & Terrace features Certified Angus Beef on its Live Stations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Tuesday	French Culinaire
Wednesday	Mexican Fiesta
Sunday	Chamolinian Night

From April 3rd till May 10th

\$35.00 per person including beer and a glass of wine
Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

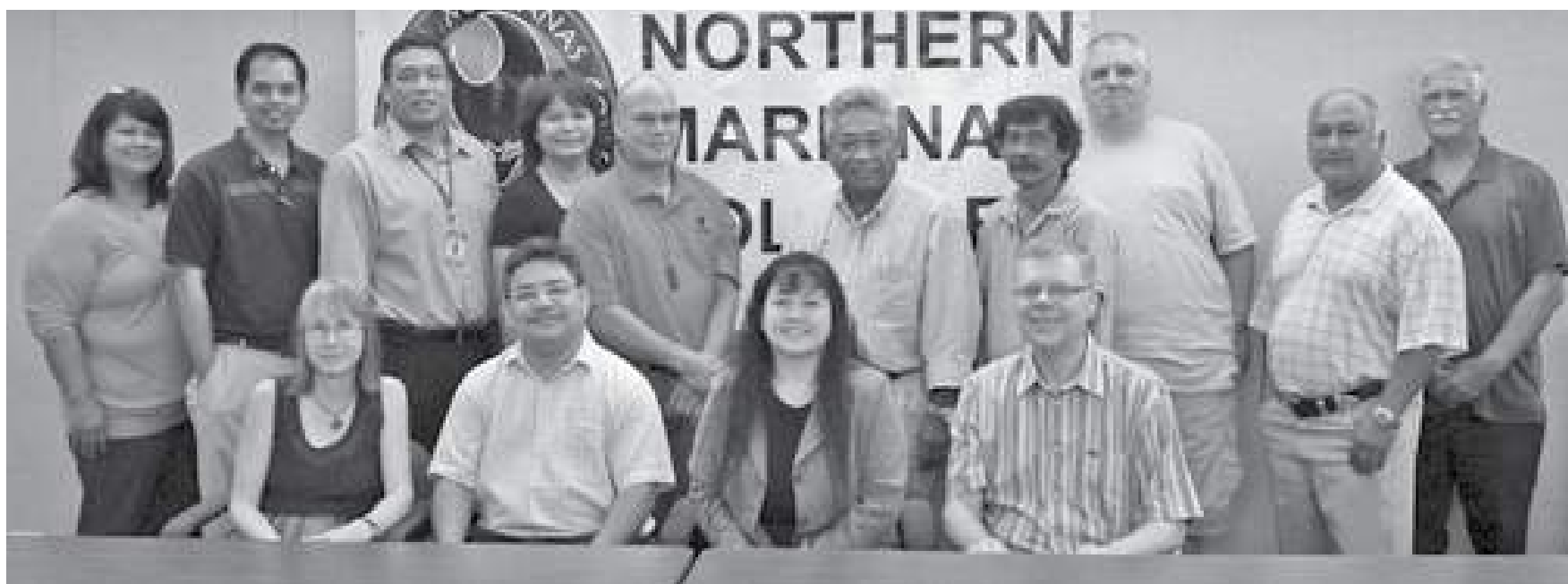


Project-Connect launched to enhance link among islands

To help better enable the transmission of critical knowledge, community services, and valuable resources including educational courses, workshops, and telemedicine, the Northern Marianas College is initiating a project that will establish point-to-point wireless network connecting Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Launched in partnership with IT&E and the Emergency Management Office, "Project Connect: Inter-Island Distance Learning Network" is funded by an Administration for Native Americans grant.

The project aims to provide distance learning opportunities in education, telemedicine, cultural preservation, and business development using innovative Internet Communication Technologies.



Northern Marianas College officials and members of the Educational Consulting Foundation, IT&E, and the Emergency Management Office pose for a photo after a meeting last week. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The enhanced connection between the three islands will result in a more reliable system that will connect the three islands," said Juan L. Babauta, NMC's ANA project director. "Ultimately, the project paves the way to enhance the variety and the quality of the program offerings that are made available to the Rota and Tinian instructional sites."

The college's IT Department is leading the effort with assistance from the members of the Educational Consulting Foundation, who are on-island to completely set up the wireless connection that will link the islands. EMO has offered the use of their towers, on which IT staff will be installing radios and antennas. IT&E is providing additional towers on Rota and Tinian at a reduced rate and a dedicated DSL line used for the college's video teleconferencing activities.

"The project is a perfect exam-

ple of the innovative technology initiatives that are being launched at the college," said NMC IT director Adrian Atalig. "We have many more projects that would benefit students and community members that will be launched in the coming months."

"This project is one major piece toward NMC's vision to be the technology leader for the CNMI and to provide state of the art learning technology for our students and the people" said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We can now look forward to an enhanced and more reliable connection between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

The ANA grant promotes the goal of economic and social self-sufficiency for American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American Pacific Islanders through projects planned, designed, and implemented by Native American community members to address the particular needs of their society. (NMC)

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KITTEN NEEDS A HOME

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This male orange and white tabby, approximately 4-6 weeks old, is in need of a home. This little guy showed up on the doorstep of a great home, but they already have a family full of pets. He is getting along with the resident cats and dogs, but is looking for a home of his own. Call Mark and Tammy at 256-1091 to make him a part of your family today.

House fails to override veto on bank bill

By Kristi Eaton
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives failed Wednesday to override the acting governor's veto of a bill aimed at establishing minimum requirements for banks and financial institutions where government deposits are placed.

H.B. 16-4 HD 4 proposes that banks meet minimum requirements before any public funds are deposited into them. Under the bill, funds amounting to less than \$100,000 must be deposited only with FDIC-insured banks. All of the deposited funds in excess of the insurance coverage should be secured by bank assets valued at all time at 100 percent of the excess funds. Bank assets that serve as collateral for the public funds should be in the form of U.S. Treasury bonds and U.S. government agency securities.

The bill earlier passed the House and Senate but acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez vetoed the bill.

The House of Representatives needed 14 votes to pass the override. However, only 12 members voted in favor of an override.

Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, the author of the bill, said he was disappointed the House did not muster enough votes.

"Unfortunately, a good piece of legislation was defeated, a piece that would provide some assurance that government funds are protected," he said.

Questions arose when Rep. Ray Yumul abstained from voting, saying he had a conflict of interest because he heads a special committee dealing with the Retirement Fund.

"As chairman of a working group to try to bring the Retirement Fund into solvency—but insolvent—but in a tough situation, this is one issue that might add on," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the Fund supported the bill and does not affect the Retirement Fund.

Yumul, who initially voted in favor of the bill before it was vetoed, said issues have since been brought up over stability and the disadvantages to businesses.

Rep. Edwin Aldan and Rep. Oscar Babauta voted no on the override.

Floor leader Joseph Camacho, Yumul and Rep. Stanley Torres abstained. Rep. Ed Salas, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider and Rep. David Apatang were absent.

Applications out for Rural Business Enterprise Grant

ON THE NET

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

HILO, Hawaii—USDA Rural Development will solicit applications under the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program when funds become available.

The primary objective of the program is to improve the economic conditions of rural areas. The USDA Rural Development will administer grant awards made under the RBEG program and 7 U.S.C. 1932(c) (2) for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. The funding opportunity is being announced prior to the actual availability of funding to allow applicants enough time to obtain leveraging funds and to begin preparing their applications.

Eligibility for the RBEG funds are public bodies and private nonprofit organizations, such as states, counties, and cities. Rural area for this program is defined as a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less, other than an urbanized area immediately adjacent to a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population in excess of 50,000 inhabitants. Applications will only be accepted from eligible entities.

The program is administered on behalf of Rural Business-Cooperative Service and assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include on-site technical assistance to local and regional governments, public transit agencies, and related nonprofit and for-profit organizations in rural areas; the development of training materials; and the provision of necessary training assistance to local officials and agencies in rural areas.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development Office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. (USDA)

Tinian, Managaha assigned green flags

Tinian's beaches and the waters surrounding Managaha Island have been declared safe for swimming after regularly scheduled sampling showed no excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

According to the Division of Environmental Quality, none of samples collected from these two locations exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 10 locations on Tinian and 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha this week. Marine Water Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and <http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beach-closeweeklyresults.htm>.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500.



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2X4X16 - \$5.10	2X4X16 - \$8.70
2X4X18 - \$5.80	2X4X18 - \$9.70
2X4X20 - \$6.40	2X4X20 - \$10.70
2X6X12 - \$6.90	2X6X12 - \$10.20
2X6X14 - \$7.90	2X6X14 - \$12.20
2X6X16 - \$8.90	2X6X16 - \$14.20
2X6X18 - \$9.90	2X6X18 - \$15.20
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R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	8,999
U08-090R	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	42193	BLUE	ACJ-553	11,399	9,999
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	14,999
R09-004B	2004	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	100808	GRAY	ACB-770	9,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	6,999
R09-005F	2006	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	57427	SILVER	ABZ-639	10,999	
GM CARS								
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	9,599	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	29,999	23,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	10,999	6,999
U09-019T	2003	MAZDA PROTÉGÉ DX 4DR	AUTO	50560	SILVER	ABZ-858	6,999	5,999
U08-038T	2001	MITO MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
GM VAN								
R09-002F	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	101951	WHITE	BUS-1231	9,999	
U08-092L	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	78403	WHITE	BUS-1201	10,999	8,999
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	13,699	12,799



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Federal managers back new measures for Pacific fisheries

PAGO PAGO, America Samoa—Federal managers responsible for fisheries in American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have submitted their recommendations for the U.S. Pacific fisheries.

These recommendations will go to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for final approval, according to a statement issued by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Monday.

The recommendations come several days after the managers that comprise the council convened in American Samoa for its 144th meeting last week.

Overfishing

The council adopted a list of the five to 10 fisheries species in Hawaii, American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands Areas for which overfishing is most likely to occur and for which the impacts of overfishing would

be of most consequence to humans or the ecosystem.

For the CNMI, the top five species are: spiny lobster, rabbitfish, unicornfish (orange-spine and blue-spine), jacks and mullet.

For Guam: Napoleon wrasse, bumphead parrotfish, spiny lobster, coral trout and eight-banded grouper.

For American Samoa: blueline

snapper, lunar-tail grouper, red-ill emperor, bigeye trevally and spiny lobster.

For Hawaii: Kona crab, parrotfish (uhu), black coral, menpachi

and seamount monchong.

For the top 10 species for the PRIA (not in priority order) are deepwater shrimp, slipper lobster, mangrove crab, seven-eleven crab, giant clam, blue-

spine unicornfish, parrotfish black jack, lyretail grouper and onaga.

The list is intended to provide the NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center with a priority list for the development of stock assessments and MSY estimates. This information will be needed for the council to meet the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act mandate to establish annual catch limits for managed species.

subsistence, recreational, traditional indigenous, and other definitions as appropriate for fisheries management in the newly established monuments.

Marianas Islands Range Complex Draft EIS

The council said that the Environmental Impact Statement does not address inshore/offshore seasonal fisheries issues, impacts of the island's supply of fresh fish, the activity of exercises during fishing seasons, weather conditions, community (fisherman, charters, etc.) access to the resource, or consultation with the community on the complex. The council submitted preliminary comments on March 13, 2009, and will submit additional comments addressing these issues.

Other council decisions and recommendations include issues related to bigeye and yellowfin tuna conservation, purse seine fishing, Main Hawaiian Island bottomfish, Hawaii non-longline pelagic fisheries, Hancock Seamount groundfish, American Samoa fishery development, American Samoa longline-green sea turtle interaction, American Samoa regional collaboration, marine education and training program, and the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The Council is the federal agency responsible for management of offshore fisheries in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Pacific Remote Islands Areas. For more information, visit the Council website at www.wpcouncil.org or contact Council at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov or at 1-808-522-8220. (PR)

Marine monuments

The council also recommended that the U.S. departments of Commerce and Interior to develop a research program on the various ecosystem-related impacts associated with the Marine National Monument designation in the Pacific.

It wants the research program to include changes in fish biomass or size structure, changes in species composition, changes in changes in benthic habitat composition, spillover effects, protected species abundance estimates and usage rates within the Monuments and local socioeconomic impact.

The council recommended that Commerce and the Interior provide access to the monuments to local government agencies for the purpose of conducting research related to local fisheries management and stock assessment needs.

The council also recommended that its staff, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office and U.S. Fish and Wildlife service staff work with the Guam, American Samoa and CNMI governments on the development of regulatory definitions for sustenance,

Many thanks to the walkers, donors and friends of the Northern Mariana Islands Chapter



Special Thanks to: All School Coordinators

Ray Santiago Tenorio, DLNR-Parks and Recreation, Saipan Sabalu Market, Tayna Camacho, Trina Sablan, MDX Radio Group, KSPN2 News, JROTC, Sg. Major Kyoshi, CUC line crew, Virgie Avendano, Annie Hayes, Diana Camacho, SIS volunteers, Mayor's office, AIC, EMS/FIRE, DPS, Big Boy Trolley, T&L Get Covered Tent and Table, AYD Trash Disposal.
Red Cross Volunteers!!!

Docomo Pacific, Dental Care Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Star Water, National Office Supply, Aqua Resort Club, Hollywood Theaters, Luen Fung, Wax Museum of Saipan, Lollipops, Saipan Zoo, Gold's Gym, McDonald's of Saipan, Saipan Ice & Water, Hawaiian Rock, Marianas Visitors Authority, Detry Corp, Coffee Care, First Floral, Roshi's Variety Store, Triple J Wholesale, Yaong Corporation, Saipan Stevedore, Ace Hardware, JTG & Associates, Big Dipper, Country House Restaurant, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Pizza Hut, Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Marianas Resort, Coral Ocean Point, J's Enterprise Inc. D'Elegance, All Star Sporting Goods, Hardt Eye Clinic, City Trust Bank, iConnect. JG Sablan Ice and Water, Java Joe's, The Water Co.

■ **Ayuda Network / Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition**—CGC Tobacco Office Commonwealth Cancer Association, Breast & Cervical Screening Program, Marianas Health Services (MHS), Pacific Wellness Center, EMO, Red Shirt Friday group(442 E. company FRG) NMC Nursing Students, NMC CREES, Family Violence Task Force, CDAC, ARC Disaster Services, ARC Health and Safety.

Six countries form Pacific cruise ship group

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—Samoa and six other countries have formed a group called the South Pacific Cruise Group, the Samoa Tourism Authority confirmed yesterday.

The group's formation comes at the end of the annual

Seatrade Convention, held in Miami, Florida on 16-19 March, Principal Marketing Officer, Muliagatele Stella Siale Fong said.

Member countries include Tahiti, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Australia, New Zealand and Samoa.

"In these trial times of global financial crisis, the South Pacific countries have come together to form a South Pacific Cruise Group to formulate strategies to ensure that more cruise ships and tourists visit our shores," Muliagatele said in a statement.

"(The idea is to) work together to support and strengthen the Pacific connection (which) was one highlight of the meeting."

The Seatrade Convention 2009 was another huge success, she said.

"Since Samoa attended the convention in 2007, it has helped to attract more cruise ships and tourists to our beautiful country," she said.

Samoa's delegation was led by General Manager of Samoa Shipping Corp., Papali'i Willie Nansen. It included Muliagatele and Ataataoletaeo Fau, of Samoa Scenic Tours.

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Stiff sentences vs 3 in KPMG tax fraud case

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge, saying he wanted to send a message to “quick-buck artists,” handed down stiff sentences Wednesday to two former executives and a lawyer with accounting firm KPMG for helping rich people evade more than a billion dollars in taxes.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan sentenced former KPMG executive John Larson to more than 10 years in prison; a fellow executive, Robert Pfaff, received more than eight years.

The judge said Larson, 57, and Pfaff, 58, were “centrally involved” in the brazen tax shelter scheme “that didn’t pass the smell test from Day 1.” He gave lawyer Raymond Ruble, 63, a term of 6 1/2 years in prison.

The judge said he hoped the sentences “will say to quick-buck artists, ‘Not so fast.’”

Pfaff and Larson are also the two primary defendants in an

ongoing civil case brought by United Micronesia Development Association on Saipan.

UMDA filed the civil suit against Pfaff, Larson, and a number of their associates in Superior Court of the of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in April of 2007 to recover millions of dollars for harm done to the company over a ten year period ending in 2006 when Pfaff was a director and shareholder in the company.

Pfaff and Larson were convicted by a federal jury of multiple counts of tax evasion in December 2008 in *U.S. v. Stein*—a case billed as the largest criminal inquiry into tax fraud in the history of the United States. The government alleged they used tax shelters marketed by KPMG LLP to help wealthy clients make it appear they sustained large tax-deductible losses by getting loans for business ven-

tures when they had not.

“There was a lot of concealment,” the judge said. “These defendants were intimately involved in seeing that the loan documents were carefully constructed to conceal the true nature of the loans.”

At one time, 19 defendants were charged in the case, which the government announced as a major strike against fraud. But charges against most were dismissed after the judge concluded the government had unfairly blocked the company from paying their legal fees.

The government suffered another setback in December, when a defendant portrayed as a key player, former \$500,000-per-year KPMG partner David Greenberg, was acquitted. Greenberg had been kept in jail for five months after his arrest and was required to wear electronic monitoring for 2 1/2 years afterward.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS State Board of Education, Public School System

HEAD START PROGRAM Saipan, Tinian, Rota

REGISTRATION OPENS BEGINNING MARCH 2009
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010

WHAT CAN THE HEAD START PROGRAM OFFER YOUR CHILD?

Head Start provides children with activities from our adopted research based curriculum to help them grow mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically. Our early childhood certified staff recognizes that as parents, you are the first and most important teachers of your children. We welcome your involvement in our program activities and will work as partners with you to help your child progress. Your child will leave Head Start prepared for kindergarten, excited about learning and ready to succeed.

Enroll your child NOW!

HEAD START PROGRAM REGISTRATION DOCUMENT REQUIREMENT (Only parents or legal Guardians are authorized to register their child(ren).)

- Child's birth Certificate
- Parents/Guardians verification of income (2 most current check-stubs or other forms of income earnings)
- Head Start Program Health Forms (copies can be obtained at the Head Start Office/Centers)
- Social Security Card
- School Health Entrance Certificate
- Medical Insurance (if any)
- Copies of Public Assistance such as Medicaid, NAP, WIC
- Passport/Visa or Immigration Permits (for non-residents)
- Legal Guardians notarized documents stipulating the guardianship of child(ren)
- Parents of children w/disabilities are required to bring their child's current IEP/IFSP.



Please be advised that the Head Start Program is a Federally funded program that has Eligibility and Selection Criteria's. Registering your child does not guarantee automatic enrollment. The program currently enrolls children between the ages of 3 and 5. Children cannot be accepted for enrollment prior to their 3rd birthday

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit our office at:
1256 Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan or any centers near you

April is Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month

On April 1, 2009, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month.

In his proclamation, Fitial stated that "child abuse and neglect can be reduced if parents have the necessary support, skills and knowledge they need to raise and nurture strong, healthy children".

Staff from the Division of Youth Services at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, service providers, and agencies working collaboratively with DYS were in attendance at the event.

In his remarks, DYS director Calvani P. DeLeon Guerrero said, "Child abuse is a community problem. If we close our eyes to this problem, it will continue on, and the children will continue to be the victims."



Staff from the Division of Youth Services at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, service providers, and agencies working collaboratively with DYS pose with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial after he signed the proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month.

Activities planned for the month of April include parent development workshops, presentations in schools and Head Start Centers, and family oriented activities like the Big Truck Day. These activities

will help raise the public's awareness on the issues of child abuse and neglect and empower families, strengthening their abilities to raise and nurture their children well. DYS will publish its schedule

of events at a later date.

April is the nationally recognized month for Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention. For more information on

DYS' activities for the month, call 664-2565/2550. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC alumni get-together tomorrow

The NMC Alumni Association is inviting all NMC alumni to the first ever "NMC Alumni Reunion Barbecue Bash" to be held on Managaha tomorrow, April 4, 2009. There will be food, fun, drinks, and games. Interested alumni can log on to www.nmc-net.edu and register on the alumni page. Alumni membership cards are now available and include discounts to businesses and access to NMC facilities. Come and hang out with former classmates from NMC. Interested alumni can also email vice president Chris Cabrera at mistercabrera@yahoo.com or Laura Williams at laurawilliams7@gmail.com for more info. (PR)

NMC 2009 graduation candidates meeting

Spring 2009 graduation candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow, April 4, 2009, at the Student Support Services office located in Building J on the NMC campus at 2pm. The meeting will feature updates on graduation, as well as a discussion on the commencement theme, choices for the keynote speaker, plans for the commencement banquet and other aspects of the graduation. For more information, please contact Jack Kiyoshi, Jr. at 234-5498 ext. 1021, or jackk@nmcnet.edu. All students preparing to graduate in May 2009 are urged to attend this meeting. (NMC)

BPL moves to new office

The Board of Professional Licensing has moved its office to a new site located on Pohnpei Ct., Bldg. 1242, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. The contact numbers are 664-4808/9 and the new fax number is 664-4814. (PR)

CARP meeting cancelled

The Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons has cancelled the April 8, 2009, meeting for retirees and members of the Retirement Fund until further notice. (PR)

Income tax return deadline

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI residents that the deadline for filing of the 2008 individual Income Tax Return is Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. Deadline hours for April 15, 2009 are from 7:30am to 4:30pm. (PR)

Corporate Challenge reset to May 17

Due to some conflicting events, the 2009 Corporate Challenge of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is being rescheduled. After a meeting with the team captains for the companies that already registered, it was agreed that the event will take place on Sunday, May 17. Everything else remains the same. Register

now and join the Chamber for a day of guaranteed fun and camaraderie. (PR)

Quarterly tax return deadline

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to remind all CNMI residents that the 2009 1st Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For more information, call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1066 Collection Branch. (PR)

SVES registration schedule

San Vicente Elementary School Registration for School Year 2009-2010 is scheduled to begin on April 27, 2009 from 9am-12pm, and 1-4pm in the school registrar's office.

Kindergarten- April 27-May 01, 2009

First through Third Grade-May 4-8, 2009

Fourth through Six Grade-May 11-15, 2009

Registration requirements: Birth certificate or passport, health certificate, health/accidental insurance, map of residential location, power of attorney/ legal guardianship (if applicable), copy of report card, unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school attended. (PR)

Sr. Remedios registration ongoing

Registration is now ongoing at the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center for School Year 2009-2010. For more information, call 234-6247. (PR)

Attention to MHS 9th grader

A reminder to all Marianas High School incoming freshmen (9th grader): Make sure to verify with the MHS Registrar (237-3205) that you are registered for classes for school year 2008-2009. You have to provide a new blue health card to MHS for new school year. Deadline for submission of new blue health card from Department of Public Health is Tuesday, Sept. 2. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

Marianas High School schedule

April 6-73rd Quarter Final Exams

April 84th Quarter begins
April 9-13 Easter break
April 27- May 15 A T T 1 0 Tests (Grade 9-11)

May 4-15 Advanced Placement Exams

May 18-22 PSS SBA Tests

May 25 No classes (Memorial Day)

June 11 Graduation Ceremony

June 15 End of 4th Quarter

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

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Business

Obama, Brown predict G20 accord to combat recession

LONDON (AP)—Doggedly optimistic in the face of doubts, President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown predicted Thursday's emergency G-20 economic summit would produce a significant global deal to tackle the deepening worldwide recession.

Others weren't so sure. France warned on Wednesday that neither it nor Germany would agree to "false compromises" that soft-pedal a need for tougher financial regulation to curb abuses that contributed to the spreading chaos. And outside the carefully scripted meetings, protesters smashed bank windows and pelted police with eggs and fruit.

Thousands surged into London's financial district, blocking the Bank of England and breaking into a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Elsewhere, however, inside the meetings, Obama said differences among the presidents

and prime ministers of the Group of 20 rich and emerging countries, were "vastly overstated."

"I am absolutely confident that this meeting will reflect enormous consensus about the need to work in concert to deal with these problems," said Obama, who is under pressure to make a good showing in his first major international appearance.



Obama



Brown

With economic chaos spreading, Brown, the host of the summit, predicted agreement on a coordinated strategy, including a possible \$100 billion fund to finance global trade, tighter financial rules and action to support economic growth and job creation.

G-20 leaders are also in general agreement on a plan to double the money available to the International Monetary Fund, to some \$500 billion, to help emerging countries.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Voluntary test nipped tainted pistachios in bud

TERRA BELLA, Calif. (AP)—The reason it didn't take dozens of illnesses for federal regulators to learn about salmonella-tainted pistachios has nothing to do with federal regulations. Routine but voluntary testing by a manufacturer for Kraft Foods Inc. first detected the contamination almost two weeks ago, when workers at a plant in Illinois decided to check roasted nuts going into huge vats of trail mix. Private auditors hired by Kraft later found problems they think caused the contamination at a supplier's processing facility in central California. If Kraft had not chosen to prioritize testing, 2 million pounds of pistachios that touched off government warnings and a nationwide salmonella scare this week probably would still be on the market. Neither the Food and Drug Administration nor state laws require food manufacturers to test the safety of their products.

Oil inches above \$49 in Asia

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil crept above \$49 a barrel Thursday in Asia as glimmers of hope that the U.S. economy may be stabilizing were weighed against concerns that global demand remains weak. Benchmark crude for May delivery rose 74 cents to \$49.12 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.27 on Wednesday to settle at \$48.39. Oil prices have pulled back from 3-month highs of above \$54 a barrel last month as investor optimism that the global recession may be bottoming has waned. Still, some investors have taken heart from improving U.S. housing data that the worst could be over.

American Airlines union goes viral against execs

DALLAS (AP)—Unions at American Airlines have picketed, worn buttons and rented billboards to protest what they consider unseemly management bonuses. Now they're using an interactive Web site game to skewer their CEO. The Transport Workers Union, which represents mechanics, bag handlers and other ground workers at American, said Thursday it is launching a new campaign to protest stock-based compensation for several hundred management employees later this month. Similar payments in recent years have totaled nearly \$300 million. They are expected to be a small fraction of that amount this time though because the stock price of American Airlines parent AMR Corp.—which lost \$2.07 billion last year—has dropped from \$40 in early 2007 to less than \$3 last month.

Feds seize Madoff's mansion after taking his yacht

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Federal authorities seized disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's Palm Beach mansion, his vintage yacht and a smaller boat Wednesday, part of an effort to recoup assets to pay back investors he swindled. Barry Golden, a spokesman for the U.S. Marshals Service, said about five U.S. mar-

shals arrived at the 8,753-square-foot, five-bedroom mansion late Wednesday afternoon, hours after marshals seized the boats.

Authorities planned to enter and secure the mansion, change the locks and conduct an inventory of the property, which Palm Beach County records show had a taxable value

of \$9.3 million last year.

Golden said marshals will spend about three to four hours filming and photographing items in the house that might be removed at some point. The mansion was unoccupied when federal authorities arrived.

"It's not an April Fools' joke," he said.

Palm Beach County property records show the mansion was purchased in 1994 under his wife Ruth's name for \$3.8 million. The 2008 property tax bill was \$157,298. Golden said the estate would be "monitored and maintained" and is no longer considered Madoff's property.

Jobless rates rise in all US metropolitan areas in Feb.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment rates rose in all of the nation's largest metropolitan areas for the second straight month in February.

The U.S. Labor Department reported Wednesday all 372 metropolitan areas tracked saw

their jobless rates rise in February from a year earlier. Indiana's Elkhart-Goshen and North Carolina's Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, both hammered by manufacturing layoffs, registered the biggest annual increases.

The U.S. unemployment rate

rose to 8.1 percent in February, the highest in more than 25 years. Economists predict the national jobless rate will climb to 8.5 percent in March. The government releases that report on Friday. It will probably hit 10 percent by year-end even if the

recession were to end later this year, they said.

Elkhart-Goshen's jobless rate soared to 18 percent in February, up 12.5 percentage points. The area has been battered by layoffs in the recreational vehicle industry.

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Nation

US to boost ports of entry along US-Mexico border

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Obama administration plans to spend more than \$400 million to upgrade ports of entry and surveillance technologies to help thwart drugs and arms smuggling along the U.S.-Mexico border. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Wednesday that the projects will help keep violence from spilling across the border.

“Working together at all levels, we

Fargo resisted FEMA recommendation to evacuate

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—With floodwaters rising around them, Fargo officials and the Federal Emergency Management Agency faced an agonizing decision: Should they order a mandatory evacuation of the entire city?

FEMA thought the best course of action was to evacuate and not leave anything to chance. Fargo officials disagreed, saying they knew what it would take to hold back the Red River. The conversation turned

Suspect’s wife sorry for NC nursing home shooting

ROBBINS, N.C. (AP)—The estranged wife of a man charged with gunning down seven residents and a nurse at a North Carolina nursing home said Wednesday she wishes she had been the victim instead. Wanda Gay Neal told WRAL-TV she has apologized to some families of those killed.

“The ones that would speak to me, I told them I was sorry,” said the 43-

take them on and we take them out. That is our goal,” Napolitano told reporters after an aerial tour of the border area near San Diego.

From the air, Napolitano could see smugglers’ paths worn into the rugged terrain of the Otay Mountains that hug the border.

In her first visit to the U.S.-Mexico border since taking office two months

ago, Napolitano toured a customs and border protection facility at Otay Mesa, Calif.

The spending outlined by Napolitano is part of President Barack Obama’s economic stimulus package approved by Congress.

Included in the border spending is \$269 million to upgrade ports of entry, including San Diego’s Otay Mesa—a

to fill sandbags, patrol for dike leaks and monitor pumps to keep water out of homes.

But the episode demonstrates the kind of clash that can unfold between federal and local governments in an era when FEMA is intent on avoiding another failure of Hurricane Katrina proportions. It was also perhaps an inevitable result of federal bureaucrats coming head-to-head with the pride of a local community.

Neal said she was working in the facility’s Alzheimer’s unit when she heard on a loudspeaker that a man was inside with a gun. She said she and her co-workers began moving residents into a TV room.

“We barricaded the door. We put down the blinds, and we sat and cried and hugged each other,” Neal told WRAL. “We tried to keep them comforted as much as we could.”

heated at times, and Fargo ultimately won.

Now that the Red River is receding and leaving only relatively minor damage, that decision looks smart. The city began returning to normal Wednesday as people went back to work, stores reopened and the river dipped to only slightly above 37 feet.

At the height of the flood, Fargo’s levees held back most of the deluge, and allowing residents to stay enabled them

year-old nurse’s assistant. “I wish it had been me, instead of them.”

Authorities say Neal’s husband, Robert Stewart, 45, shot and killed eight people at Pinelake Health and Rehab on Sunday before a Carthage police officer shot him and ended the rampage. Stewart was wounded but survived and has been charged with eight counts of first-degree murder.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipment for the Rota Health Center**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after March 20, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (**US\$150.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on April 08, 2009, 2:00 p.m. local time at the Rota Mayor’s Office, Conference Room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 15, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-008"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time April 17, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time April 17, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 17, 2009, and must be received no later than April 28, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 4, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on April 22, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other sure acceptable to the Attorney General. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier’s Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project funding derived from CNMI Public Law 12-64 § 5(a), and Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution (RLDR) 13-2D.4 and RLDR 13-4, FY 1996-2002.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days after established Notice to Proceed date. However, if a Contractor is awarded two (2) different packages, performance time shall be completed within One Hundred and Eighty (180) calendar days issuance of Notice to Proceed date. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$ 100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

busy crossing for trucks—Antelope Wells, N.M., and Nogales, Ariz.

The plan calls for \$42 million for high-tech inspection equipment and \$50 million for a high-tech surveillance systems along Arizona’s border with Mexico.

Napolitano said additional cameras would be mounted at the Otay Mesa facility to record vehicle traffic heading into Mexico, a tactic expected to help cut into the smuggling of guns from the United States into Mexico.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives reports

Deadline near, indictment imminent for Blagojevich

CHICAGO (AP)—An indictment is expected as early as Thursday charging ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich with presiding over state government awash in political corruption. The indictment U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald is expected to produce would replace a complaint charging Blagojevich with plotting to trade or sell President Barack Obama’s former U.S. Senate seat and a host of other corruption.

While timing of grand jury meetings is never disclosed, Thursday is believed to be the last before a Tuesday deadline for the complaint to be replaced.

Fitzgerald could ask U.S. District Court Chief Judge James F. Holderman for an extension, but all signs point to an imminent indictment.


that up to 95 percent of guns seized at scenes of drug violence in Mexico can be traced to U.S. commercial sources. These weapons are increasingly higher-powered, including .50 caliber rifles and armor-piercing ammunition.

To help curb southbound arms trafficking, the Mexican government plans to begin checking more vehicles crossing from the U.S. At present, Mexico checks about 10 percent of the 230,000 vehicles that cross the border each day, according to the federal Attorney General’s Office.

“We’re just hours away from a massive pay-to-play indictment against Gov. Blagojevich and possibly others,” former federal prosecutor Patrick M. Collins, who sent Gov. George Ryan to prison for racketeering, said at a news conference Tuesday.

In addition to the Senate seat allegations, an affidavit accompanying the December complaint accuses Blagojevich of trying to use his political power to pressure the Chicago Tribune to fire editorial writers calling for his impeachment.

Blagojevich, 52, denies any wrongdoing. But the Democrat’s Dec. 9 arrest ended his political career. The Illinois House impeached him Jan. 9. The Senate convicted him and removed him from office Jan. 29.




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai

Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW09-IFB-008

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipment for the Rota Health Center - A, B and C.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipment for the Rota Health Center**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after March 20, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (**US\$150.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on April 08, 2009, 2:00 p.m. local time at the Rota Mayor’s Office, Conference Room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 15, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

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Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 4, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on April 22, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other sure acceptable to the Attorney General. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier’s Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project funding derived from CNMI Public Law 12-64 § 5(a), and Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution (RLDR) 13-2D.4 and RLDR 13-4, FY 1996-2002.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days after established Notice to Proceed date. However, if a Contractor is awarded two (2) different packages, performance time shall be completed within One Hundred and Eighty (180) calendar days issuance of Notice to Proceed date. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$ 100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai

Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW09-RFP-014

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-A CM-NH-0031 (014)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services for the Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A (CNMI)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (**COA**) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after March 27, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (**\$50.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on April 15, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 30, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

- Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - **25%**
- Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - **30%**
- Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - **25%**
- Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW09-RFP-014"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **May 5, 2009**. Proposals located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **May 5, 2009** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 5, 2009** and must be received no later than **May 14, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest-ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

2 dead, 12 hurt as truck slams into California bookstore

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. (AP)—A car transporter truck careened out of control at a busy intersection and smashed into a bookstore on Wednesday, killing two, critically injuring three and leaving several damaged and overturned vehicles strewn across the pavement.

Nine other people, including the truck driver, were treated for minor injuries at the scene, said Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Mike Brown.

The semi-truck was lodged inside the Flintridge Bookstore and Coffeehouse where one of the two people inside was hit by a piece of wood and received

minor injuries, Brown said. The truck also damaged an adjoining wine store and nail salon after hitting five vehicles.

Brandi Sjostrom, 19, a waitress at the Hill Street Cafe, heard brakes squeal and her manager yelling for customers to get out of the way just before the truck smashed into a building a couple doors down.

"I felt nauseous," she said of seeing the wreckage. "I was in shock and couldn't believe what happened."

Vehicles were strewn about on the intersection about 10 miles north of Los Angeles. One sport utility vehicle was

on its side and sheets covered a small red car that was crushed.

The crash occurred during afternoon rush hour when the truck came down the highway out of control, and the driver could not make a sharp turn, Brown said.

City officials said they have complained repeatedly about the intersection to the state Department of Transportation. Last September, a semi-truck plowed through a parking lot next to the Hill Street Cafe, destroying seven vehicles and injuring one person, City Manager Mark Alexander said.



Police and firefighters respond to a fatal car accident in La Canada Flintridge, Calif. about 10 miles north of downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday April 1, 2009. AP

ACROSS THE NATION

Cop who stopped NFL player in hospital lot resigns

DALLAS (AP)—The police officer who pulled out his gun and threatened an NFL player with jail instead of allowing him inside a hospital where his mother-in-law was dying resigned Wednesday. Officer Robert Powell had been placed on paid leave pending an investigation of the March 18 incident. "I made this decision in the hope that my resignation will allow the Dallas Police Department, my fellow officers and the citizens of Dallas to better reflect on this experience, learn from the mistakes made, and move forward," Powell said in a statement issued through his attorneys. He had stopped Houston Texans running back Ryan Moats' SUV outside Baylor Regional Medical Center in suburban Plano after the vehicle rolled through a red light. The officer pulled out his gun and threatened Moats with jail as the player and his family pleaded to be allowed to go inside the hospital. Powell continued writing Moats a ticket and lecturing him

even after a fellow officer confirmed that Moats' mother-in-law was dying.

Army: Officer reprimanded after friendly fire

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A 101st Airborne Division officer who killed one of his soldiers in a friendly fire incident hasn't been charged, the Army says, and the family of the man who died is angry no one has been held accountable. The father of Pfc. David Sharrett of Oakton, Va., said he's also upset that the officer, Capt. Timothy Hanson, was promoted from first lieutenant last month. The promotion, based on the officer's overall record, came more than a year after an autopsy found Sharrett was killed by a bullet from Hanson's weapon. David Sharrett Sr. said Wednesday night he had to press the Army for information about his son's death. "Lt. Hanson shoots my son from a distance about 19 feet. Then he leaves my son on the battlefield, leaving no leader on the ground," Sharrett said. "It was tactically a nightmare."



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW09-RFP-015

CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CRASH ANALYSIS SYSTEM

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Consultant Services for the Design and Development of a Crash Analysis System for the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.**

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNU Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15 95 and as further amended by Public Law 15 118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§ 70-30.3-310** of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of work for phase I of this multi phase effort will be available on or after March 25, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. No Pre proposal Conference is scheduled for this RFP. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division and to Mr. Rosello R. Torres, Engineer, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or faxed to (670) 234 3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 17, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Qualifications of the company or individual | 30% |
| 2. Past Experience on similar projects | 40% |
| 3. Current workload and ability to perform the scope of work | 30% |

Technical merit and experience in traffic records, data collection, highway safety and expertise in Federal Section 408 Traffic Safety funding process is important in the selection criteria.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW09-RFP 015"**. For proposers within the C/M, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 am local time April 22, 2009. Proposals located outside of the CNU may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 22, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664 1515, or via email to Procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 22, 2009 and must be received no later May 1, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified consulting firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNU Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3 301 of the CNU Procurement Regulations.

This procurement will be fully funded with federal highway safety funds.


All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply



5th Annual
Mahi FISHING DERBY

DATE : APRIL 4, 2009
LAUNCHING POINT : SMILING COVE MARINA ONLY
LAUNCHING TIME : 6:00 A.M. & UP
ENTRANCE FEE : \$100.00 PER BOAT FOR ONE CAPTAIN W/3 CREWS (4 TOTAL)
\$25.00 EACH ADDITIONAL CREW
TYPE OF FISHING : TROLLING
BOAT SAFETY INSPECTION : PRE-BOAT SAFETY INSPECTION (ENCOURAGED)
CONTACT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (BOATING SAFETY UNIT) 664-9184 FOR INSPECTIONS

CATEGORIES : ONLY MAHI REGARDLESS OF WEIGHT QUALIFICATION

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 5:30 A.M.
THE DERBY OFFICIALLY BEGINS AT 6:00 A.M.
AND CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE DAY UNTIL 5:00 P.M.
THE OFFICIAL WEIGH STATION IS AT SMILING COVE, ALL BOATS MUST ENTER THEIR CATCH AT SMILING COVE NO LATER THEN 5:00 P.M.








CASH PRIZES
1st TO 5th PLACE

1st Place \$1,500 plus in-kind prize
2nd - 5th Place Cash plus in kind prize

PRE-REGISTRATION: SMILING COVE MARINA
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

THE AWARDS BANQUET FOR THE DERBY WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE CLOSING OF THE EVENT & WEIGH-IN

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DERBY, CONTACT THE MVA HEADQUARTERS
AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR FAX TO (670) 664-3237 OR
SEND INQUIRIES TO FTUDELA@MYMARIANAS.COM

Safety 1st Systems, (Saipan), Inc. PACIFIC RAINBOW PAINTS

Asia

Report: NKorea fueling rocket for impending launch

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has begun fueling a long-range rocket for an impending launch, a news report said Thursday, as President Barack Obama warned the liftoff would be a “provocative act” that would generate a U.N. Security Council response.

North Korea says it will send a communications satellite into orbit on a multistage rocket sometime from Saturday to Wednesday. The U.S., South Korea and Japan think the reclusive country is using the launch

to test long-range missile technology, and they’ve warned the move would violate a Security Council resolution banning it from ballistic activity.

Regional powers have also begun to deploy ships to monitor the launch, and Japan is preparing to intercept any debris that might fall if the launch goes awry. These moves have prompted several threats of retaliation from Pyongyang.

CNN television reported on its Web site that Pyongyang has begun the fueling the rocket.

The report, citing an unidentified senior U.S. military official, said the move indicates final preparations for the launch. Experts say the missile can be fired about three to four days after fueling begins.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry said it was aware of the report but declined to comment.

At a meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in London on Wednesday, Obama denounced the planned launch as “a provocative act” and a

breach of the U.N. resolution, a senior administration official told a background briefing, according to the White House Web site.

“He also made clear that we will respond in the event of a launch. The U.N. Security Council is the natural venue for a response since this would be a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions,” the official said.

The North responded Thursday with its own threat—part of a string in recent days.

China restoring France contacts after Tibet spat

BEIJING (AP)—China and France announced an agreement Wednesday to restore high-level contacts and promote cooperation following a lengthy spat over Tibet sparked by the French president’s meeting with the Dalai Lama.

France pledged not to support Tibetan independence in “any form” as part of the agreement, according to a news release posted on the Chinese foreign ministry’s Web site and a similar statement from the French government.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Chinese President Hu Jintao planned to meet in London late Wednesday, after a dinner for leaders of the Group of 20 nations, Sarkozy’s office said. The two last met in August, on the margins of the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympic Games.

China suspended many contacts and called off a major summit with the European Union in rage over a December meeting in Poland between French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Tibet’s exiled Buddhist leader the Dalai Lama.

Trade ties also suffered during the feud, with major Chinese purchasing and investment missions to Europe this year by-

passing France entirely.

Beijing regards the 73-year-old Nobel laureate as a separatist seeking independence for his Himalayan homeland. The Dalai Lama, who fled to India in 1959 amid a failed anti-Chinese uprising, says he wants substantial autonomy for Tibet but under Chinese rule.

The agreement comes shortly before this weekend’s G-20 financial crisis meeting in London to be attended by both Sarkozy and Chinese President Hu Jintao.

In Paris, the French government spokesman Luc Chatel said Sarkozy would meet the Chinese leader in London, probably on Thursday.

The last meeting between the two heads of state was in August 2008 on the margins of the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympic Games.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether the agreement signified a pledge by France not to allow future meetings between its high-level officials and the Dalai Lama.

France and other nations that have hosted the Dalai Lama—and felt Beijing’s wrath as a result—have repeatedly said they consider Tibet a part of China, but have called on Beijing to open meaningful dialogue with the exiles.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines tries to contact Red Cross captors


MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities were trying to re-establish contact with al-Qaida-linked militants threatening to kill three Red Cross hostages, officials said Thursday. Gov. Abdusakur Tan of southern Sulu province, where the Abu Sayyaf threatened to behead one hostage this week, said the militants and captives were on the run as the government redeployed troops around a hilly area on Jolo island close to their camp. Tan declared a state of emergency on Jolo on Tuesday, hours after the beheading deadline set by the militants lapsed. Tan later said he had information but not proof the hostages were alive as troops rumbled off in tanks and trucks to try to prevent the militants from escaping. Provincial police chief Julasirim Kasim said Thursday government forces were “sealing off” areas where the gunmen and the Italian, Swiss and Filipino hostages were sighted.

Pakistani militant poses growing threat to US


ISLAMABAD (AP)—The son of a poor potato farmer who once worked as a fitness instructor has grown into one of the most powerful militant leaders along the Pakistan-Afghan border, his rise fueled by alliances with al-Qaida and fellow Pakistani militants. A day after Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud threatened to attack the White House, a U.S. drone fired two missiles at the alleged hide-out of one of his commanders Wednesday in a remote area of northwest Pakistan near the Afghan border, killing 14 people, intelligence and local officials said. Mehsud is now seen as posing one of the greatest threats to President Barack Obama’s push to stem Pakistan’s slide toward instability and turn around the war in Afghanistan, analysts and officials said.

Study finds 6,000 rare dolphins off Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Thousands of rare Irrawaddy dolphins have been found in Bangladeshi waters, a wildlife advocacy group said Wednesday, a hopeful sign for a vulnerable species found only in small numbers elsewhere. However, the newly discovered population is already threatened by climate change and fishing nets, the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society said. Nearly 6,000 Irrawaddy dolphins, which are related to orcas or killer whales, were found living in freshwater regions of Bangladesh’s Sundarbans mangrove forest and the adjacent waters of the Bay of Bengal, the Wildlife Conservation Society announced. Prior to this study the largest known populations of Irrawaddy dolphins numbered in the low hundreds or less, a news release from the group said.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE OF SALE
**UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**
GINA K. SOMORANG/ SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG AND MIGUEL O. SOMORANG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about May 02, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 03, 1984, under Document No. 84-686 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 548, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 885 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$38,130.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC
 **NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



NOTICE OF SALE
**UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**
IGNACIO A. CABRERA AND ANA B. CABRERA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 20, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 21, 1983 under Document No. 83-90 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 006 T 18, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 901 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 006 T 01, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 18011, ON THE 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1983.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$56,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC
 **NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency**



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NOTICE OF SALE
**UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**
LORETTA K. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about June 29, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 30, 1998, under Document No. 98-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 010 K 05, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 892 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 010 K 01 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 87-2911 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$42,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC
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NOTICE OF SALE
**UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**
VINCENT N. ITAMAN/ ROSA L. TAMAN/ VINCENTE E. TAMAN (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 27, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 27, 1984 under Document No. 84-659 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 I 531, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 745 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$32,530.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC
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World

Europeans look to welfare, not stimulus, during a crisis

VIENNA (AP)—Europeans and Americans don’t always see eye to eye—and how to solve the global financial crisis is no exception.

Across a continent long accustomed to big government and high taxes, many Europeans are counting on generous welfare benefits to shield them from the worst of the meltdown. Others worry that loosening interest rates would lead to devastating inflation.

In the American view, the economic house is on fire, and only quick and decisive action will put out the flames. Europe is not quite as ready to pull the alarm.

“The social security system is definitely better in Europe than in the States,” Florian Schnabl, a 32-year-old financial consul-

tant in Vienna, said Wednesday. But he was hedging his bets: “Who knows if countries here will react as well as the U.S. to the crisis.”

For all their talk of coming together at this week’s summit of the G-20 economic powers in London, European leaders have been openly skeptical of corporate bailouts and massive U.S.-style stimulus spending.

As the G-20 leaders gathered, two new projections forecast more economic turmoil worldwide. The World Bank predicted the global economy will contract by 1.7 percent this year. A separate outlook by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was even more bleak, projecting a 2.75 percent slump worldwide.

Iran denies US reports of warm talks at conference

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran dismissed American government reports that senior U.S. and Iran envoys had a cordial—and promising—face-to-face exchange at an international conference, saying Wednesday that no “talks” took place. The competing accounts of Tuesday’s encounter in the Netherlands appeared to reflect the different approaches to overtures to end the United States’ and Iran’s nearly 30-year diplomat standoff.

Washington has seemed eager to build on President Barack Obama’s surprise video message last month to seek engagement with Iran’s ruling clerics. Iran has—in public, at

least—been far cooler to making immediate contacts, but has not fully rejected some openings in the future.

Iran’s take on The Hague conference was just as nuanced—not flatly denying that senior U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrooke and Iranian diplomat Mehdi Akhundzadeh met at a conference to discuss Afghanistan but concentrating on the semantics of whether official talks took place.

“Maybe this—the report on the meeting by the U.S.—indicates that the other party is hasty to take advantage of the conference,” Akhundzadeh was quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

US, Russia call for nuke cuts in sweeping agenda

LONDON (AP)—The United States and Russia set a newly ambitious course for global cooperation Wednesday as presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev ordered negotiators into immediate action on a treaty to further reduce nuclear weapons.

Going into their first face-to-face meeting in London, Medvedev had voiced openness to Obama’s call for resetting the deeply troubled U.S.-Russian relationship, but few had expected the kind of sweeping statements that emerged from weeks of in-

tense preparatory talks.

While setting in motion fast-track negotiations on a replacement for the seminal 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, which expires at year’s end, the two leaders vowed at the same time to jointly confront other perceived threats. They specifically mentioned the nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea and al-Qaida militants who have found refuge in Pakistan.

They set a nominal July deadline for a substitute treaty for START, a date that coincides

with Obama’s first presidential visit to Russia. That conceivably would leave time to get the new treaty approved in the U.S. Senate by the December expiration of the current agreement. But arms control experts say December is not a hard deadline so long as there is progress.

Sen. Richard Lugar, the Indiana Republican devoted to arms control, said the announcement of intent was “truly remarkable.”

Not known for overstatement, Lugar called the joint declaration “almost breathless in its op-

timism and scope.” He spoke in an interview with MSNBC.

Obama’s engagement with the Russians marks a stunning reversal from policies of the Bush administration, which was disinclined to take up deep arms control negotiations and had angered Moscow with its intention to install a missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov drove that point home in a briefing with Russian reporters after the Obama-Medvedev meeting.


WORLD BRIEFS

Art performance sparks Cuban free speech debate


HAVANA (AP)—The organizers of a Cuban art show on Wednesday condemned government critics who used an open microphone at an art performance to call for free speech on the communist-run island. The organizing committee for the Havana Biennial, a state-sponsored showcase for artists from developing countries, issued a statement calling the protesters “people far removed from culture” who took advantage of a performance “to undertake a provocation against the Cuban Revolution.” The installation featured a curtained podium and microphone, which Cuban artist Tania Bruguera offered to audience members for a minute each on Sunday. As they spoke, a pair of actors dressed as Interior Ministry officials approached them and put a white dove on their shoulders.

Mexico trying harder to catch smuggled US guns

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Try to bring a refrigerator into Mexico in the back of your pickup, and you are almost certain to get stopped by Mexican customs officials. Stick a couple of AK-47 rifles in your trunk, and chances are you’ll whiz right through. Now Mexico is owning up to its leaky border as it launches a new program to monitor vehicles entering the country. The goal is to weigh and photograph south-bound cars and trucks, in hopes of snaring more gun smugglers. As the Obama administration promises a crackdown on the illegal U.S. weapons trade that supplies the drug cartels, Mexico is acknowledging shortcomings on its side of the 2,000-mile border. “Security concerns require a customs overhaul,” Alfredo Gutierrez Ortiz, who oversees border checkpoints as director of Mexico’s tax collection agency, said in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press. “Today, passenger vehicles really enter without being inspected.”



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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

JOHN ALAN C. KING AND CARLA MARIE DLC. KING (collectively “Trustor”), on or about November 08, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 12, 2003, under Document No. 03-2781 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 321 CONTAINING AN AREA OF 838 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 330 R 08 DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1996, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 97-746, DATED APRIL 02, 1996, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 02, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$33,230.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC
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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

REGINA T. CASTRO (“Trustor”), on or about October 23, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1984, under Document No. 84-2264 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 B 09, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 407 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 B 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 832, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$53,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC
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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

LUCIA M. DELEON GUERRERO (“Trustor”), on or about May 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 23, 1985, under Document No. 85-0991 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 20472-6, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 907 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2064/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND COMMISSION AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14154, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$85,730.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC
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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

VANESSA C. IGINOEF/ VALERIO MENDIOLA CABRERA AND MARIANA ALDAN CABRERA (collectively “Trustor”), on or about June 21, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 26, 1985, under Document No. 85-1210 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 H 16, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 621 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 H 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 702, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$40,230.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC
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Off The Wall

Man hit by spear done with underwater fishing

SAO PAULO (AP)—A Brazilian man who came to a hospital with a spear stuck in his head after a diving accident says he is done with underwater fishing.

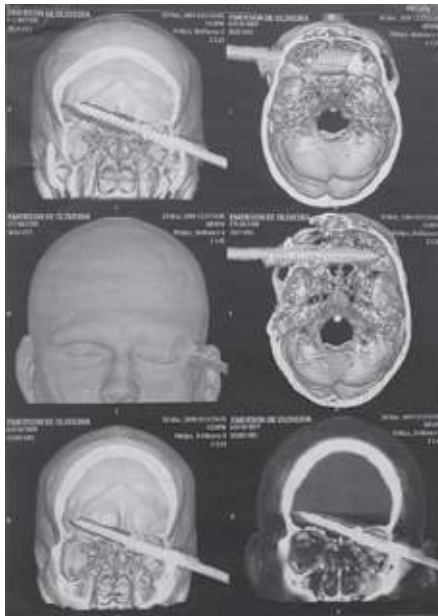
Three days after doctors surgically removed a spear from his brain, Emerson de Oliveira Abreu says “never more” will he get back into the water to fish with spears.

Abreu is in stable condition and expected to be released in 10 days.

Abreu told Globo TV on Wednesday that he felt “a sharp pain” after his shot apparently ricocheted off a rock and entered his head just above his left eye.

He said the pain was unbearable every time he touched the spear or when the ambulance hit bumps in the road on the way to the hospital.

The CAT scan of Emerson de Oliveira Abreu, a man who came to the hospital with a spear stuck in his head after a diving accident, is shown on a monitor at the Adao Pereira Nunes state hospital in Duque de Caxias, Brazil, Wednesday, April 1, 2009.



AP

Pigeons fly cell phones into Brazilian prison

SAO PAULO (AP)—Inmates have devised an innovative way to smuggle in cell phones into a prison farm in Brazil: carrier pigeons. Guards at the Danilo Pinheiro prison near the southeastern city of Sorocaba noticed a pigeon resting on an electric wire with a small cloth bag tied to one

of its legs last week. “The guards nabbed the bird after luring it down with some food and discovered components of a small cell phone inside the bag,” police investigator Celso Soramiglio said Tuesday.

One day later, another pigeon was spotted dragging a similar

bag inside the prison’s exercise yard. Inside the bag was the cell phone’s charger, Soramiglio said.

The birds were apparently bred and raised inside the prison, smuggled out, outfitted with the cell phone parts and then released to fly back.

“Pigeons instinctively fly back home, always,” the investigator said.

Soramiglio said that police have not discovered who raised the pigeons nor the name of the inmate who was going to receive the cell phone, but that he hoped the telephone carrier would provide the information.

“Some of them are members of organized crime groups that use cell phones to talk to family and friends and to give and receive orders for criminal actions outside and inside prisons,” Soramiglio said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NY family survives deer’s scary trip into SUV

COEYMANS, N.Y. (AP)—Five people in an SUV south of Albany escaped with minor cuts and scratches when a deer hurtled through their windshield and landed in the back of the vehicle. Heather Sherman said she, her boyfriend, her two daughters and her mother were driving Saturday night in the town of Coeymans when an oncoming car hit the deer, sending it into their windshield. Sherman said she and her boyfriend were covered in blood after the impact. They pulled over, and when she went to the back of the SUV to get a blanket and paper towels, she found the dead doe in the vehicle’s cargo area. The deer flew past Sherman and her boyfriend in the front seats and her daughters and mother in the back seats. Sherman said no one in the SUV remembers ducking.

‘Bailout’ hits Domino’s for 11,000 free pizzas

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Domino’s pizza chain has given away nearly 11,000 free pizzas because of a never-used promotion that a Web customer stumbled upon. Tim McIntyre, spokesman for Ann Arbor, Mich.-based Domino’s, said Wednesday that the company had prepared an Internet coupon for an ad campaign that was considered in December but never activated. McIntyre said somebody discovered that the

code word “bailout” was good for a free medium pizza ordered online. The information quickly spread Monday night on the Web, until the code was deactivated Tuesday morning. The owner of 14 Domino’s locations in the Cincinnati area says his stores gave away more than 600 pies. Owner John Glass told The Cincinnati Enquirer that Domino’s promised to reimburse him for the pizzas.

Man cries after attempt to rob liquor store fails

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Police say a 19-year-old who tried to rob a liquor store sat down and cried after 76-year-old owner locked him in the store. The man was accused of trying to rob Sykes Liquor Store in Trenton Monday night. Police said the owner, who was behind the counter, triggered the lock after the man grabbed a bottle of Hennessy cognac and bolted for the door. The man then allegedly pulled out a handgun and demanded to be released. But the owner said he saw that the gun was a fake, refused to unlock the door and called police. Police said the suspect threw away the gun, slumped to the floor and was crying when officers arrived to arrest him.

Boy, 12, accused of driving mom’s car into cruiser

RIPLEY, W.Va. (AP)—Authorities arrested a 12-year-old boy who allegedly drove his

mother’s car and crashed into a police cruiser on Interstate 77. State Police Sgt. S.E. Wolfe said the boy’s mother reported her car missing at 7:54 a.m. Wednesday from her home. Wolfe says Jackson County sheriff’s deputies and a Ripley police officer tried to intercept the car after it was spotted on I-77. The car struck the Ripley cruiser on the driver’s side, doing minimal damage, before hitting a guard rail and cable barriers in the median. A juvenile court petition filed in Jackson County charged the boy with fleeing, joyriding and destruction of property.

How now brown cow? Run for it!

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP)—A dairy cow was headed for the slaughterhouse until an animal-rights activist bought her after the Brown Jersey made a run for it. Farmer Calvin Nisly was taking the 5-year-old cow named Linda to a sale barn Tuesday and had stopped at a veterinarian’s office to be sure she wasn’t pregnant. On the way back to the trailer, an annoyed Linda escaped through a fence and led Nisly and several law enforcement vehicles on a chase. Soon after the cow was captured, Hutchinson resident and animal-rights activist Danny Brizendine stepped into the bizarre scene and learned that Linda was headed for slaughter. Brizendine agreed to buy her for \$700, and paid \$300 to pasture and feed her for the rest of the year.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-059

“OFFICE SPACE LEASE/PURCHASE - ROTA”

OPENING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009 CLOSING DATE: APRIL 15, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB09-RDLNR-056

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 24, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TRACTORS AND ACCESSORIES - CIF - ROTA FOR THE ROTA DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ JOSEPH S. INOS
MAYOR OF ROTA

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP09-DPW-066

SUBMISSION: APRIL 28, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“PEST CONTROL SERVICES - TRANSFER STATION AND MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY (MSWF)”

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 15, 2009 AT DPW - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TRANSFER STATION, CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE IN WRITING TO MR. BLAS T. MAFNAS, ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOLID WASTE BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-2762, NO LATER THAN APRIL 17, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 237-6500/01 Fax: (670) 234-5962

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSION SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting proposals from qualified firms and individuals to operate a food and beverage concession (currently the “Touch Down Cafe”) at the Saipan International Terminal, Saipan International Airport. Interested firms and individuals are invited to submit proposals for food and beverage services to be offered to the public.

Proposal package may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, located at the Administrative Office of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport during regular business hours. Proposal package is available for \$50.00. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All proposals must be received by the Authority at its Administrative Office, located at the Saipan International Airport no later than Friday, on the 3rd day of April, 2009. In evaluating proposals the Authority will consider certain factors but not limited to financial capability, related business experience, food and beverage to be offered, and staffing.

The decision on the award will be made within a reasonable time (30 to 60 days) after the closing date. The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in accordance with the Procurement Rules and Regulations of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request For Proposals may be addressed to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan MP 96950.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2009.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY

Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664 4550 • Fax: (670) 664 4560

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is hereby giving notice that the CNMI Supervisory Council will hold its Special Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2009 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Judicial Court Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. Call to order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. New Business
Review and Approval of Byrne JAG Recovery Act Application
Submission to Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
V. Old Business
VI. Announcements
VII. Adjournment

Should you need more information, please call the CJPA at 664-4550-7.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairperson, CJPA Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome I. Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant# 2006-DJ-BX 0421, from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice.

Science & Technology

Invention helps seniors get plugged in

By **FREDRICK KUNKLE**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Two young inventors, with the help of hands-on testing at a retirement community, have created a device that they say might change the way older Americans get news and entertainment.

Using modified MP3 players, computers and large touch-screen monitors in high-contrast colors for people with impaired vision, Charles De Vilmorin and Herve Roussel have created a digital kiosk that serves as a sort of iPod for older people.

De Vilmorin, who came to the United States from France as part of a study program, said the kiosk allows people to download music, news or audio entertainment from a menu tailored to their interests. The system, produced by their start-



THE WASHINGTON POST

Marta Harkins, 80, uses a digital disk co-created by Herve Roussel, center. "Believe me, when you reach this stage, you can't see anymore," Harkins says. In the background is Fred Johnson, director of programs and special events at Vinson Hall Retirement Community in McLean, Va.

up company, Linked Senior, has been in use for about 1 1/2 years by residents at Vinson Hall Retirement Community in

suburban McLean, Va.

At the kiosk near the cafeteria in Vinson Hall, residents can download big-band mu-

sic, spoken books, audio news taken from print media such as the Economist, cooking lessons with Julia Child and on-air dramas such as "Dragnet" that played in an era when "wireless" referred generally to AM radio.

Users don't have to log in, remember passwords or strain to read and type on a tiny screen, De Vilmorin said. Instead, they receive a small MP3 player that can be plugged into the kiosk, allowing them to choose material from a menu on a large touch-screen.

Even the language has been modified: Instead of "download," the computer program

asks users whether they would like to "take" a selection. The system can search or browse sections and make suggestions based on users' tastes. Other content can tie in with activities in the retirement community: A user might download an audio guide to a museum that members plan to visit, for instance.

"The system is wonderful," said resident Marta Harkins, 80, who has trouble reading large-print books. Her grandson had given her an iPod to use on a long trip, filling it with the audio books she loves, but Harkins found the device difficult because of its tiny buttons and text.

"Believe me, when you reach

this stage, you can't see anymore," she said.

That's less true of the Linked Senior device, she said, with its plug-and-play features and its high-contrast, flat screen, lighted in yellow and black or black and white, to help visually impaired users. About once a week, she downloads a novel, such as E.M. Forster's "Howards End," and drops the loaded device in her purse.

Fred Johnson, director of programs and special events at Vinson Hall, said residents helped the inventors tweak their product to deliver what they wanted. "The residents basically dictated what this is," Johnson said.

Conficker worm reaches go time, to no effect

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Conficker Internet worm's feared April Fools' Day throwdown for control of millions of infected PCs stirred lots of panic but came and went with a whimper.

Security experts say some Conficker-infected computers—those poisoned with the latest version of the worm—started "phoning home" for instructions more aggressively Wednesday, trying 50,000 Internet addresses instead of 250. However, security companies monitoring the worm remained successful at blocking the communications.

"We didn't see anything that wasn't expected," said Paul Ferguson, a security researcher at antivirus software maker Trend Micro Inc. "I'm glad April 1 happened to be a nonevent. People got a little too caught up in the hype on that. (The infected computers) didn't go into attack mode, planes didn't fall out of

the sky or anything like that."

The worm can take control of unsuspecting PCs running Microsoft's Windows operating system. Tied together into a "botnet," these PCs can be directed to send spam, carry out identity-theft scams and bring down Web sites by flooding them with traffic.

That's why the April 1 change in Conficker's programming was a small twist—and not the end of the story. The network of Conficker-infected machines could still spring to life and be used for nefarious deeds.

One scary element is that Conficker's authors have given the infected PCs peer-to-peer abilities, which allows them to update each other and share malicious commands through encrypted channels. That ability means the computers don't have to contact a Web site at all, and the communications are protected.

And the criminals behind Conficker are likely taking their time.

"The people who are pulling the strings on this are very slow and determined and measured in making modifications to this botnet," Ferguson said. "Basically, they're building a layer of survivability."

Conficker spreads without human involvement, moving from PC to PC by exploiting a security hole in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system. In October, Microsoft issued a software update, called a "patch," to protect PCs from the vulnerability, but not everyone applied the patch.

In one telltale sign of an infected machine, Conficker blocks Microsoft's site as well as those of most antivirus companies. Computer owners can work around that obstacle by having someone else e-mail them a Conficker removal tool.

HELP FILE

By **ROB PEGORARO**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: How can I download Hotmail messages to the regular mail program on my computer?

A: For years, Microsoft restricted this kind of offline access to its free Web-mail service. To get it, you had to run one of its e-mail programs or pay \$20 a year for a Hotmail Plus account.

But in January, the company began allowing some Hotmail users to check and send messages using any standard e-mail program. And on March 12, a note—confusingly titled "A new way to get Hotmail on your phone" and posted on the

Hotmail blog (mailcall.spaces.live.com/blog)—formally opened this option to all Hotmail users. It also pointed them to a previous post with instructions on how to use it.

The Hotmail site, however, has yet to advertise this feature.

Following Microsoft's instructions may require a little experimentation. In a Mac's Mail program, I only had to enter two server addresses (pop3.live.com for incoming mail, smtp.live.com for outgoing) and my Hotmail username and password, and the Apple software figured out the rest.

But in Microsoft's Outlook Express, I had to click the "Advanced" tab in the account-properties window to enable

SSL security on each server connection and change the outgoing server's port number to 587. In Mozilla Thunderbird, I also had to switch the outgoing server to a particular kind of security—not SSL, but the "TLS, if available" option.

The Windows Mail program built into Windows Vista was worst of all. Its new-account "wizard" refused to set up Hotmail access, claiming that it was impossible. I had to edit another account's settings to work around this defect.

In any mail application, make sure it's set to leave new messages on the server, or the e-mails that land in your program's inbox will vanish from the Hotmail site.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), would like to notify the general public that the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2011 would be available for public comment beginning March 24, 2009.

The Federal-Aid Highway Program is a formula grant program that the CNMI Government receives annually from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Copies of the TTIP can be obtained from the Department of Public Works - Technical Services Division (TSD) at Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, Saipan. For those residing in Tinian and Rota copies may be obtained from the local Public Works Offices.

Questions and comments regarding the TTIP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 21, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Technical Services Division, Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, or fax to (670) 235-6346.

ARONGOL TOULAP

Sóumwar ye Benigno R. Fitial, Sów Lemelem me Timothy P. Villagomez, Sów Máng sáangi Bwulasiyool Public Works (DPW) re kke arongar aramas toulap bwe Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) reel rágh kka 2009 mwet ngáli 2011 nge ebwe lo bwe toulap rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng, ebwe bwél wóol Máilap (Mótso) 24, 2009.

Progróoma ye Highway Federal-Aid nge formula grant program iye gobenool CNMI e ghal bwughi alongal ráágh mereel US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Tilighiyal TTIP nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyool Public Works Technical Services Division (TSD) me Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, Seipél. Schóól Tehúlúyól me Luuta ebwe bweibwogh mereel bwulasiyool Public Works me lye.

Mángemáng me ayegh reel TTIP nge ebwe isisilong mmwal 4:00 lefááf wóol Séétá (Abriid) 21, 2009, ngáli Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Samwoolul Technical Services Division DPW, Suite 212 Joeten Oleai Center me ngáre fax ngáli (670) 235-6346.

ESPESIÁT NA NOTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Gobietno as Benigno R. Fitial yan i Segundo Gobietno as Timothy P. Villagomez, ginen i Dipattamenton Cho'cho' Pubpliku (DPW), malago' na para u notisia i pupbliku henerát na i Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) para i Fisikát na Sákkán 2009 asta 2011 para u guaha opiñion pupbliku tinituhon gi Mátso 24, 2009.

I Federal-Aid Highway Program i formula grant na prográma na i Gobietnamenton CNMI ha risisibi kada sákkán ginen i U. S. Dipattamenton Transpottasion (USDOT), Atministrasion Federal Highway (FHWA).

Kopia siha pot i TTIP siña ha mahenta ginen i Dipattamenton Cho' cho' Pubpliku-Dibision Setbision Teknikát (TSD) gi Suite 212, gi Joeten Oleai Center, Saipan. Para todú ayu siha i mañásaga Tinian yan Luta kopia siha siña mahenta ginen i Ofisinan Cho' cho' Pubpliku siha.

Kuestion yan opiñion siha pot i TTIP debi na u mana'hálo m i opion tinige' ántes di alas kuátro (4:00) gi despues di talo'áni. gi Abrit 21, 2009 guatu gi as Siñot Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Direktot i Dibision Setbion Teknikat, DPW Dibision Setbision Teknikát siha, Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, pat fax guatu gi (670) 235-6346.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**
Secretary of Public Works

Life & Style

Internet hoaxes launched for April Fools' gags

NEW YORK (AP)—While the potentially dangerous Conficker worm was being tracked throughout April Fools' Day, more harmless hoaxes were being fired out across the Internet.

Everyone from Google to The Guardian were rolling out prank Web sites Wednesday. It's become an April 1 tradition on the Web to showcase absurd

technological breakthroughs and silly pseudo-innovations.

New media mockery was everywhere.

Google unveiled "Gmail Au-

topilot." It alleges that it will help you weed through your inbox by replying to e-mails with automated responses, tailored to your preference for emoticons.

Google also claimed to have mastered artificial intelligence with an entity named "CADIE." That technology led Google to claim, among other things, that it could now "index your brain."

The 188-year-old British newspaper The Guardian said it would become a "Twitter-only publication," limiting its reports

to 140 characters or less.

One example from 1927 read: "OMG first successful trans-Atlantic air flight wow, pretty cool!"

(The North Carolina alternative weekly Mountain Express announced a similar reconfiguration, calling itself "the nation's first Twaper.")

Yahoo created a new "Ideological Search" that filters results to fit your personal beliefs. On it, you can get either Republican or Democratic results to a

query like "stimulus package."

A startup called Monetate launched a spoof of the photo-sharing site Flickr. With "smellr," the site claims it has brought scent to social networking: "It's like Flickr, but for your nose."

YouTube offered its latest innovation in online video: upside-down viewing. To experience it, YouTube suggests turning your monitor upside down and tilting your head—or moving to Australia.

The online marketplace Amazon.com announced that it had brought cloud computing to the skies. Though "cloud computing" is simply a metaphor for a kind of interconnected computing, Amazon said it had used "the latest in airship technology" to put computers in the clouds (with blimps).

The travel booking site Expedia.com on Wednesday began offering flights to Mars. It's a steal, too, with flights for just \$99. "Save over \$3 Trillion!" read the spoof.

FunnyOrDie.com, the comedy video Web site co-founded by Will Ferrell, announced that it had been bought by country star Reba McEntire. The site was temporarily renamed "Reba or Die" and its home page was populated entirely with videos featuring McEntire.

"If you got to be bought by someone, at least it's Reba," said Ferrell.

Media panel says constant Obama coverage warranted

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Constant news coverage of President Barack Obama since he took office less than three months ago is warranted considering the economic crisis facing the country, panelists at a media symposium said Wednesday.

"Obama's doing it all at once so our judgments are coming at a fast and furious rate," New York Times columnist David Brooks said before a panel discussion called "Obama and the Press: Is the media doing its job?" at Texas Christian University.

TCU graduate Bob Schieffer, CBS News' chief Washington correspondent and "Face the Nation" moderator, said he ran out of time for his questions during an interview with Obama recently.

Schieffer, who moderated the fifth annual Schieffer Symposium, said it reminded him "how serious the prob-



AP
US President Barack Obama and his wife first lady Michelle Obama, walk hand in hand as they leave Downing Street, London, after a G20 dinner, Wednesday April 1, 2009.

lems are that we face today, and how many different problems that this president is having to deal with."

Mark Shields, a nationally syndicated columnist and commentator on PBS' "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," said he

didn't feel coverage of Obama was biased.

"People are fascinated by the press because it has become a

recurring theme by the opposition that he's had too favorable of a press," Shields said before the symposium. "I personally believe the press has a serious bias when it comes to politics in favor of winners. ... If you win, you're a genius."

Shields reminded the crowd that Obama was an underdog when his presidential campaign started.

"I don't think he's getting a free ride," he said. Brooks said he believes the press has a subconscious liberal bias, but that "for all the adulation, I think that there's been a level of scrutiny" on the stimulus package and problems with some of his initial Cabinet choices.

"Most reporters are motivated by a desire to get on page one" and not any political leanings, he said.

Gwen Ifill, moderator and managing editor of PBS' "Washington Week," said the media has been "completely overwhelmed" in covering Obama during his short time in office. She said it wasn't a "bias as much as intensity" from voters anxious to hear about changes.

"You name it—there's just this obsession. And so we just try to keep up by covering it," Ifill said.

Ifill came under fire last fall when she moderated the sole vice presidential debate because she was writing a book, "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama." She said at the time that she had not written her chapter on Obama, and the book was not released until his inauguration in January.

Bill Cosby to receive the Mark Twain humor prize

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bill Cosby will receive the nation's top humor prize from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for a prolific career that often focused on race relations and breaking down stereotypes, the center announced Wednesday.

Some of the biggest names in comedy will salute Cosby on Oct. 26 when the 71-year-old comedian, actor, television producer and author is honored with the 12th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

Cosby said in a statement accepting the award that his mother read Twain's famous stories to him as a child, including "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

"I would like to apologize to Mr. Twain for falling asleep hundreds of times, but he should understand that I was only four," Cosby said.

Still, he said several of Twain's stories inspired his work, including "How to Tell

a Story" and "The Mysterious Stranger."

The award honors people who have had an impact on society in ways similar to Twain, a satirist, commentator and storyteller.

"Over the course of his extensive career as a standup comedian, writer, actor, and social activist, Bill Cosby has earned countless accolades for his groundbreaking brand of humor," said Kennedy Center Chairman Stephen Schwarzman.

Perhaps best known as the star and producer of the popular sitcom "The Cosby Show" during the 1980s, the Philadelphia native started his career as a standup comedian in nightclubs. He caught the eye of TV producers and landed a role in the "I Spy" series in the 1960s, which broke new ground by casting a black man and a white man as equals.

"The Cosby Show," portraying an upper middle-class black family and everyday life, ran from 1984 to 1992 as a Thurs-

day night hit for its NBC network. Cosby also produced a second hit sitcom, "A Different World," from 1987 to 1993. He brought "Cosby" back as a sitcom for CBS from 1996 to 2000.

Cosby dropped out of high school to join the U.S. Navy. He earned his diploma while in the service and later enrolled at Temple University with the goal of becoming a physical education teacher. Cosby went on to earn master's and doctorate degrees in education and has been a leading voice on race.

He's proven to be one of the nation's most popular and enduring entertainers. Nine of Cosby's comedy albums have been certified gold, and six went platinum on recording industry charts. He has authored several books, including "Fatherhood" and "Time Flies," that became best sellers.

"Of course we really like that he's a real author of words on paper," which rounds out his profile in the Twain tradition, said Peter Kaminsky, co-executive producer of the Twain prize.

Joint Death Anniversary

We the family of our late beloved

Abraham P. Manibusan & Luis P. Manibusan

1st Anniversary 7th Anniversary

Humbly invites our family, relatives, and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 1st Death Anniversary for Abraham P. Manibusan and 7th Death Anniversary for Luis P. Manibusan's passage to eternal life.

On April 6, 2009, daily mass is being held at 6:00pm at San Vicente Church, followed by the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm at the residence of Bernadita Manibusan at San Vicente.

On the Final Day April 14, 2009, Holy Rosary will be held at 12:00pm followed by mass intention at 6:00pm at San Vicente Church.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence will forever be remembered.

**Bernadita A. Manibusan,
Joseph & Steph Manibusan (Ha' ane')**



Cosby

'American Idol' puts the cork on another crooner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The spotlight has been turned off of Megan Corkrey on "American Idol."

The tattooed 23-year-old single mother from Sandy, Utah, who crooned Bob Marley's "Turn Your Lights Down Low," received the least number of viewer votes on the popular Fox network singing competition Wednesday—and the show's judges didn't even consider saving her.

"I'm not going to pretend that we're even going to contemplate saving you," said Simon Cowell.

Joining Corkrey as the bottom three voter-getters this week: 16-year-old high school student



Corkrey

Allison Iraheta from Los Angeles and 21-year-old college student Anoop Desai from Chapel Hill, N.C.

Corkrey had been supported by

VoteForTheWorst.com, a subversive "Idol" fan site that encourages viewers to vote for bad—but entertaining—singers.

Corkrey didn't bring any joy to the judges on Tuesday's pop music-themed performance show.

Kara DiGuardi attacked Corkrey's song choice while being heckled by the audience, insisting said she would have rather heard Corkrey sing Adele's "Chasing Pavements" instead of the Marley tune. Cowell also lashed out, calling her performance "boring" and "indulgent."

"I love you, Simon, but I don't care," Corkrey retaliated Wednesday.

A miffed Cowell got the last word, even though she had been one of the judges' wild-card picks: "Megan, with the greatest respect, when you said that you don't care, nor do we. ... This is your swan song. Enjoy it."

The eight contestants who remain in the singing competition: Iraheta, Desai, Adam Lambert, Danny Gokey, Kris Allen, Lil Rounds, Matt Giraud and Scott MacIntyre.

On next Tuesday's performance show, the top eight finalists will perform tunes released the year of their birth. All of the remaining finalists—except for Iraheta—were born in the 1980s.

He said performing on the program made him feel like "the luckiest person in the world."

Miley Cyrus to make a new movie...but where?

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Hundreds of people could find jobs when Miley Cyrus begins shooting her new movie—but who gets them depends on where it's filmed.

North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue scheduled a news conference Wednesday at EUE/Screen Gems studios in Wilmington to announce a project her office said was "expected to create hundreds of jobs." But the event was canceled, and the state Commerce Department said more time was needed to work out the project's details.

Perdue later told the the Star-News of Wilmington the announcement involved the Cyrus movie "The Last Song," based on a script by New Bern author Nicholas Sparks.

"I was hopeful to say that it was coming and now I don't know that I'll get to say that," Perdue told the newspaper.

She said Georgia also is trying to get the movie, which is being distributed by Walt Disney Co. Disney also is behind the "Hannah Montana" television series and movies that made the 16-year-old Cyrus a 'tween phenomenon.

"Nobody knows what's going to happen. ... I don't know what figures they got from Georgia, but Georgia wants them badly, and we want them badly," Perdue said. "And by Monday, there'll be four or five other states that want them badly."

Perdue spokeswoman Chrissy Pearson refused to confirm Perdue's statement and said the governor was not available for comment.

Alison Tyrer, a spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Economic Development, declined comment. Sparks did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

2 more celebrities kicked off ABC's 'Dancing'



In this image released by ABC, couples, from left, Karina Smirnoff and her partner Steve Wozniak and Holly Madison and her partner Dmitry Chaplin are shown on "Dancing With The Stars," after they were eliminated, Tuesday, March 31, 2009, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Playmate and the Woz are done dancing. Playboy model Holly Madison and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak were booted from the "Dancing With the Stars" ballroom Tuesday during the ABC show's first midseason double elimination.

Wozniak, 58, consistently earned the lowest score during the show's four weeks of competition so far. Judges gave him and professional partner Karina Smirnoff just 12 points out of a possible 30 for their Argentine tango on Monday, and the pair earned a meager 10 points the week before for their samba.

"There is an improvement from last week," judge Len Goodman told the couple Monday. "Last week was so terrible that almost anything that happened would have been an improvement."

Judge Bruno Tonioli told Wozniak his tango "really stunk." Ever positive, Wozniak said he "gave it a good try."

"This is a great show, a great process, a great system," he said. Wozniak previously criticized the show's scoring system and later apologized to producers.

Disney does 3-D with 'Toy Story,' 'Beast' reissues

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Walt Disney is going 3-D on a lot of future films—and some from its past.

The studio announced Tuesday that 3-D versions of the computer-animated tales "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" will be released Oct. 2 for a two-week run as a double feature. Disney also is preparing a 3-D version of its hand-drawn animated musical "Beauty and the Beast" for release Feb. 12, 2010.

The "Toy Story" double bill is an "offer to moms and dads and people of all ages that they can come back to the movie theater and they can see two movies that they loved in 2-D format. Now they can see them in 3-D format for one price," said Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion picture group. "This was a way to kind of create an event with a very good value proposition given today's economy."

With 17 3-D releases in the works through 2012, Disney offered a preview of its lineup at



In this image released by Disney/Pixar, a scene from the animated feature, "Up," is shown.

ShoWest, an annual convention of theater owners.

The Disney 3-D slate includes Pixar Animation's "Up" in May, Robert Zemeckis and Jim Carrey's adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" this November, Tim Burton's

"Alice in Wonderland" starring Johnny Depp, and a follow-up to the 1980s sci-fi adventure "Tron."

The Disney-Pixar partnership also has next year's "Toy Story 3" and 2011's "Cars 2" coming in 3-D.

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<p>Fast & Furious</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>4:25</td> <td>7:20</td> <td>9:50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>1:30</td> <td>4:25</td> <td>7:20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>1:30</td> <td>4:25</td> <td>7:20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon thru Thurs</td> <td>4:25</td> <td>7:20</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Vin Diesel, Paul Walker</p> <p>Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13</p>	Friday	4:25	7:20	9:50	Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:20		<p>Synopsis</p> <p>When a crime brings them back to L.A., fugitive ex-con Dom Toretto reignites his feud with agent Brian O'Conner. But as they are forced to confront a shared enemy, Dom and Brian must give in to an uncertain new trust if they hope to outmaneuver him. And from convoy heists to precision tunnel crawls across international lines, two men will find the best way to get revenge: push the limits of what's possible behind the wheel.</p>
Friday	4:25	7:20	9:50														
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<p>Monsters vs. Aliens</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>4:05</td> <td>7:00</td> <td>9:35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>1:05</td> <td>4:05</td> <td>7:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>1:05</td> <td>4:05</td> <td>7:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon thru Thurs</td> <td>4:05</td> <td>7:00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie</p> <p>Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG</p>	Friday	4:05	7:00	9:35	Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:00	Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:00	Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:00		<p>Synopsis</p> <p>When a space capsule crash lands onto Susan Reynolds' car she's doused by its alien liquid contents, Quantonium which turn her into a 48 foot 11 inch giant. Her wedding thwarted, she's captured by the military and sent to a secret government facility, where she meets fellow monsters Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D., the gelatinous BOB, The Missing Link, and Insectosaurus.</p>
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Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:00															

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<p>The Haunting in Connecticut</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>4:20</td> <td>7:25</td> <td>9:45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>1:20</td> <td>4:20</td> <td>7:25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>1:20</td> <td>4:20</td> <td>7:25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon thru Thurs</td> <td>4:20</td> <td>7:25</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx</p> <p>Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13</p>	Friday	4:20	7:25	9:45	Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:25	Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:25	Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:25		<p>Synopsis</p> <p>Based on a true story of one family's terrifying, real-life encounter with the dark forces of the supernatural. When the Campbell family moves to upstate Connecticut, they soon learn that their charming Victorian home has a disturbing history. Not only was the house a transformed funeral parlor where inconceivable acts occurred, but the owner's clairvoyant son Jonah served as a demonic messenger, providing a gateway for spiritual entities to crossover.</p>
Friday	4:20	7:25	9:45														
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<p>Knowing</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>4:10</td> <td>7:10</td> <td>9:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>1:15</td> <td>4:10</td> <td>7:10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>1:15</td> <td>4:10</td> <td>7:10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon thru Thurs</td> <td>4:10</td> <td>7:10</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne</p> <p>Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13</p>	Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30	Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10	Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10	Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:10		<p>Race To Witch Mountain</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>4:15</td> <td>7:30</td> <td>9:40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>1:10</td> <td>4:15</td> <td>7:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>1:10</td> <td>4:15</td> <td>7:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon thru Thurs</td> <td>4:15</td> <td>7:30</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Dwayne Johnson, Ciarán Hinds</p> <p>Action, Adventure • Rated PG</p>	Friday	4:15	7:30	9:40	Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:30	
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<p>The Last House On The Left</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>4:30</td> <td>7:15</td> <td>9:55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>1:25</td> <td>4:30</td> <td>7:15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>1:25</td> <td>4:30</td> <td>7:15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon thru Thurs</td> <td>4:30</td> <td>7:15</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Corio</p> <p>Horror • Rated R</p>	Friday	4:30	7:15	9:55	Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:15		<p>Watchmen</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>4:00</td> <td>7:05</td> <td>10:15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>1:00</td> <td>4:00</td> <td>7:05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>1:00</td> <td>4:00</td> <td>7:05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon thru Thurs</td> <td>4:00</td> <td>7:05</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup</p> <p>Action, Adventure • Rated R</p>	Friday	4:00	7:05	10:15	Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:05	Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:05	Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:05	
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Recent divorcee is unhinged by men's romantic rejection

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old, attractive, recently divorced attorney and single mother. My problem is I become extremely threatened when I'm romantically rejected, and I need to know how to gain a healthier approach to rejection.



Dear Abby

I have dated occasionally, but nothing has developed into anything serious because I have yet to find someone with whom I feel completely compatible. However, when I start dating someone and he doesn't feel the same, it negatively affects my self-esteem. I feel and act depressed, and then I begin feeling insecure, anxious and irrational.

I recently drove someone away because when he didn't call me one night, I went wild with anger and anxiety. I realize this heightened response is not normal. It is also quite painful. Frankly, the intensity of my feelings frightened me, and I'm at a loss about how to handle it.

How can I get over feeling so insecure in relationships so rejection won't damage and disrupt my sense of self?

DISCOMBOBULATED IN BROOKLYN

DEAR DISCOMBOBULATED: May I remind you that the process of dating is like sifting for gold for everyone involved. It can take a lot of effort and sifting before you finally strike the mother lode. When it comes to dating, I know of few things that are more of a turn-off than a woman—or a man—who has the word “needy” stamped on her (or his) forehead.

If you felt good about yourself, you would not be so dependent upon these men for validation. Your intense, angry and anxious reactions when a man doesn't call may be related to your divorce—or they may stem from earlier insecurities you brought into your marriage. Unless you develop confidence about your self-worth, your relationships with men won't change.

Please give this some thought—and if you agree that I'm on the right track, consider consulting a psychologist who can help you develop some tools for emotional independence. Once you have achieved it, your odds of meeting “Mr. Right” will be much better.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is the proper way to defer right-of-way to an ambulance or other emergency vehicle? I drive on a two-lane highway to and from work every day, and have had a couple of close calls recently with drivers in front of me slamming on their brakes and stopping in the roadway while waiting for an emergency vehicle to go by.

I was always taught that if an emergency vehicle is behind you, to pull as far to the right side of the road as possible and allow the vehicle to pass on your left. But what do you do when it's going in the other direction? Surely stopping in the road is not the answer. Please set me and my fellow commuters straight. In the meantime, I'll be ...

SLAMMING ON THE BRAKES IN ALABAMA

DEAR SLAMMING: I, too, was taught that when an emergency vehicle with a flashing light and a siren approaches from either direction that all drivers should move as far to the right as possible. This will allow the emergency vehicle access to the middle of the road, if necessary. Simply slamming on one's brakes is not enough. It can cause gridlock and bring the emergency vehicle to a stop, resulting in loss of property or even someone's life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Sam Lutfi's sister says Britney wanted help

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The sister of Britney Spears' former manager testified Wednesday that the pop singer said in recent months that she was afraid of her father and wanted help hiring her own lawyer.

Attorneys for Spears' father and conservatorship are seeking a long-standing restraining order against Osama “Sam” Lutfi, a manager and close confidant of the singer during her personal meltdown, that forbids him from contacting her.

They reiterated Wednesday that in December and January, Lutfi violated an agreement between him and Jamie Spears not to contact the “Circus” singer. That accord was reached last summer, after Jamie Spears agreed not to seek an extension to a temporary restraining order issued when he took control of his daughter's affairs.

Christina Lutfi said Britney Spears told her that she was afraid of her father and needed her brother's help to hire her own attorney. The 25-year-old was introduced as a surprise witness Wednesday, moments after a judge rejected a motion to dismiss the restraining order.

She was also the last witness in a hearing that has spanned three months. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Aviva K. Bobb continued temporary orders until she hears closing arguments April 21.

Christina Lutfi said her brother gave her a prepaid cell phone, which she secretly gave to Spears at a hotel sauna, so that the two could contact each other. She said she repeatedly called the number, trying to make sure the singer was safe.

She claimed she used her brother's cell phone in recent



AP
In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, Britney Spears is seen at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards held at the Paramount Pictures Studio Lot in Los Angeles.

months. But under questioning by Jamie Spears' attorneys, Christina Lutfi could not recall the phone number of one of her brother's cell phones, nor the phone she said she'd handed to Spears.

She also acknowledged that

she shared the cell phone with her brother at their parents' home, where a landline is installed.

Jamie Spears testified in February that he eventually found and confiscated the phone, which indicated com-

munications to Lutfi and his daughter's ex-boyfriend, Adnan Ghalib. The phone's discovery, and a series of late-night and early phone calls from Lutfi, led to the current restraining order application.

Jamie Spears has controlled his daughter's personal and financial affairs since last February, when he intervened after the singer had to be hospitalized twice. The singer's mother, Lynne Spears, accused Lutfi at the time of grinding pills into her daughter's food to control her.

Lutfi denied that claim in a defamation lawsuit filed against the Spears family in February.

Lutfi's attorney, Bryan Freedman, argued Wednesday that Jamie Spears' attorneys hadn't shown enough evidence that the pop singer had suffered “substantial emotional distress” as a result of the calls and text messages.

Bobb rejected that argument when Freedman moved to dismiss the case. She said testimony from Britney Spears' hairdresser and a security guard indicated the singer was troubled by Lutfi's overtures.

An arguments were echoed by attorney for lawyer Jon Eardley, who the conservatorship also hopes to block from contacting Spears. Eardley has repeatedly been rejected in attempts to install himself as Britney Spears' attorney, and was rebuffed last month at a hearing where he sought to invalidate the conservatorship.

Evidence showed communications between Lutfi and Eardley, and Jamie Spears' attorneys have called their relationship a “conspiracy” to undermine the conservatorship.



Cole

Fans inundate Natalie Cole with offers of a kidney

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Natalie Cole's fans want to give her a kidney. The 59-year-old singer told Larry King on Tuesday that she was diagnosed with kidney failure, and while she was till on his CNN show, dozens of viewers wrote in offering to be tested as possible donors.

Without a donor kidney, Cole says she will be on dialysis for the rest of her life.

The daughter of Nat King Cole said she was diagnosed with hepatitis C in February 2008. Her kidneys failed after treatment and she has since been seeking a donor.

'X-Men Origins: Wolverine' leaked online

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“X-Men Origins: Wolverine” isn't due in theaters until next month, but the prequel has already hacked its way online.

A high-quality, full-length work print of the 20th Century Fox film appeared online Tuesday evening. The studio said it had the file removed, but copies quickly propagated and continue to appear on several file-

sharing Web sites.

The movie focuses on the beginnings of Hugh Jackman's clawed Marvel superhero Wolverine and is set for a May 1 release.

Fox vowed in a statement Wednesday that the source of the “stolen, incomplete and early ver-



Jackman

sion” of the movie would be prosecuted and said the FBI and MPAA are investigating. The studio also insisted that the version of the film posted online was “without many effects, had missing and unedited scenes and temporary sound and music.”

FX gets TV rights for DreamWorks animations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The FX channel is going to be the TV destination for “Monsters vs. Aliens,” “Kung Fu Panda” and other DreamWorks animated movies.

FX struck a licensing agreement with DreamWorks Anima-

tion SKG distributor Paramount Pictures that gives the cable channel the TV rights to releases from 2008 to 2012.

Also included in the deal are “Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa,” “Shrek Goes Fourth” and the se-

quel to “Kung Fu Panda.”

“Monsters vs. Aliens” scored the highest-grossing weekend for the year to date, taking in more than \$59 million. Paramount Pictures Corp. is a unit of Viacom. FX is owned by News Corp.

'Project Runway' lands at Lifetime after dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—After months in limbo, “Project Runway” has a new home at Lifetime. The popular design-competition series that aired for five seasons on the Bravo network had been mired in a legal struggle involving NBC Universal, which owns Bravo, the Weinstein Co. and the Lifetime channel.

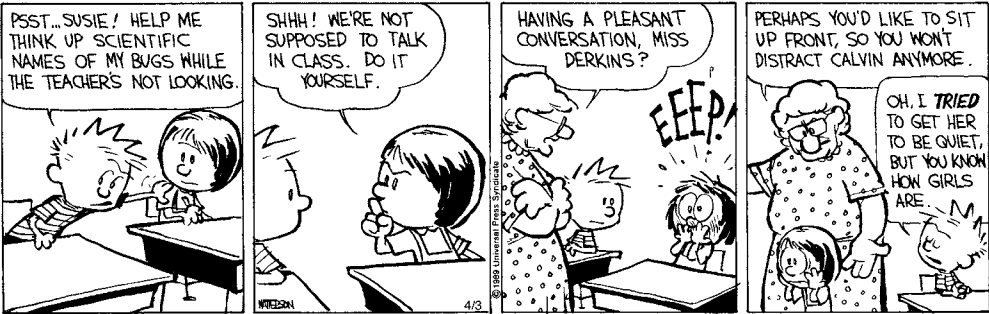
The dispute began last April when NBC Universal sued Weinstein after the production company made a reported \$150 million deal with Lifetime for the series that features supermodel Heidi Klum as host.

The lawsuit has been settled. In a statement issued Wednesday, NBC Universal said Weinstein will pay the media company “for the right to move ‘Project Runway’ to Lifetime. All parties are pleased with the outcome.”

The show's sixth season—which has already been taped—will air this summer on the female-centric channel, said Lifetime CEO Andrea Wong.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



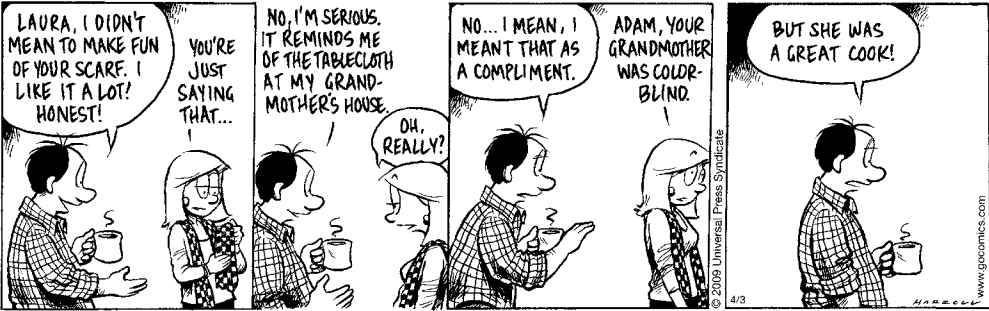
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



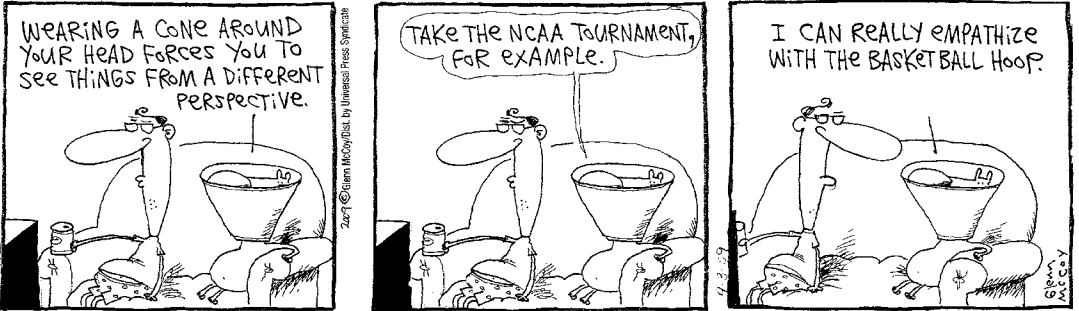
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Circumference 55 Longing 20 Saute 23 Addict 24 Criticism 25 Scrambled eggs side dish 26 Coaster 27 Kitten's sound 28 Now, on a memo 29 Whammy 32 Edition sold the night before 33 "Hungaria" composer 35 Dead heat 36 Kid's racer 38 Egret's cousin 39 "You Were Meant for Me" singer 42 Catch sight of 43 Additional 44 Any time now 45 That girl 46 Cushion 47 Ginger — 49 Reuben holder

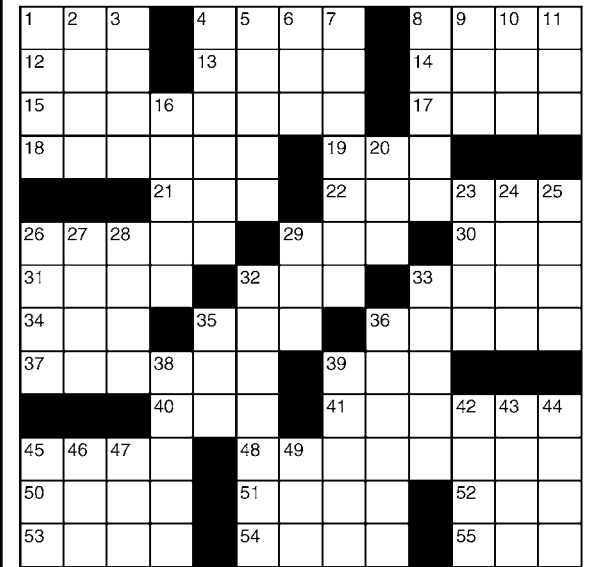
DOWN 1 Auto-maker Ransom Eli — 2 Spore producer 3 Honshu mountain 4 Probable 5 Pastoral opus 6 Blueprint addition 7 Tricked narrator 8 Colleague's choice 9 Sapporo sash 10 The whole enchilada 11 Bottom line 16 Oust

41 Dermatologist's case 45 Sail support 48 "A Study in Scarlet" narrator 50 Head light? 51 — and terminator 52 Expert 53 Unimprovable place 54 Money

Solution time: 25 mins.

WAR P E G S C A P
A S I A O B O E A G E
S P O R T S B A R N U S
A S T R A Y V I D E O
O R Q U E R Y
J E S T B U G E B O N
A R P A I L A R E
B E A U S T Y C R E W
C L A S S F A
D I E T S O U T A G E
R O B H A N D L E B A R
E T A E G A D R U M S
W A R S O B S S T E T

Yesterday's answer 4-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Amanda Bynes, 23; Jennie Garth, 37; Picabo Street, 38, Eddie Murphy, 48

Happy Birthday: You will take everyone, including yourself, by surprise this year. You will see things as black and white and, although this can have its negatives, it can also help you clear the dead weight from your life. This is a progressive year and it will lead to a better life and a better you. Your numbers are 6, 13, 17, 21, 27, 33, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't give in to anyone giving you an ultimatum. Instead, continue in a positive direction. A professional deal is coming your way but, if you let an emotional issue affect your concentration, you won't be able to take advantage. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't go over budget with home renovation projects. Do much of the labor yourself and figure out ways to barter for the extras. Someone from your past may pose a problem. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Someone may try to convince you that you need his or her help but, before you take it, ask what you have to give in return. You must choose candidates that will form the best team. Your ability to pull things together will lead to success. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Ask yourself how much you are actually enjoying life and what you do each day. It's time to make some positive changes that will help you move in a better direction or that suits your personality better. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need a little adventure in your life. If you can get away, even for just the day, do so. A change will spark your imagination and lead to a romantic encounter. Your emotional outlook is altered but now is not the time to make a final decision. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can take charge but remember that whatever you do will influence your future. Let your practical side be the judge of what you share with others. If you keep things to yourself, you will have less explaining to do. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expand your interests or get involved in something you enjoy doing and you will meet someone new who will influence your future. Don't rule out a professional partnership. Consider starting your own small business. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't give in to pressure or to anyone giving you an ultimatum. Take control and refuse to let anyone get a rise out of you that may show your emotional weakness. A short trip will be enlightening in terms of the information you collect. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't give in to criticism. Just because someone pulls out of a deal or decides not to go along with your plans doesn't mean you can't forge ahead. Opportunity will knock if you embrace change and people who can complement your style. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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trouble controlling your emotions if you get into a feud with someone you deal with regularly. The less said, the better. Change may be necessary but it doesn't have to mean the loss of a friendship. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Gauge your response carefully and don't retaliate. Instead, operate under the pretense that everyone else will eventually see things your way. Move forward positively and everything will fall into place. ***

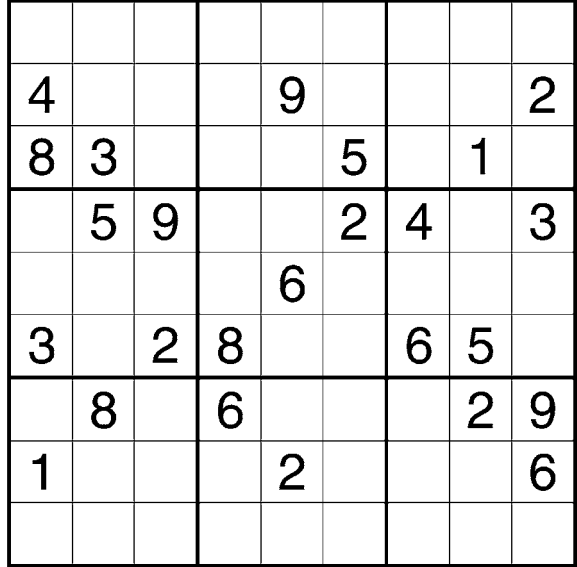
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Present yourself with a challenge and you will have some fun. Your creativity and imagination will help you come up with some great plans. Progress will be yours as long as you aren't afraid to go it alone. *****

Birthday Baby: You think and react quickly. You are sensitive to your environment and unforgiving when it comes to opposition. You are true to your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

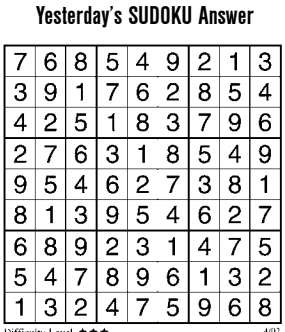
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/03

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CONCERTS Solution: 9 letters

A S E O C E R U S O P X E M P
C N C F P H E A T T E N D E E
O E E R F M E S A M T E R R T
U E D R E E E E I E D F E C O
S R Z O A A C T R R O L O H M
T C Z F O N M T O R E S S A O
I S A R E M A C M A T R T N R
C N J T H I E A S U A U A D P
S S S T N R N E M E L G N I S
C I Y M C C D E H E T A D S V
L H E S E I S S T I F E N E (B)
R N O S T D T O I E R S N N (A)
T E V I L E U I N E P U B S (N)
C K C O R R M O E G E O B S (D)
G N I H S O M G L S S H O W S

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Acoustic, Arena, Attendee, Band, Benefits, Cameras, Cheer, Choir, Cities, Costumes, Date, Effect, Entertainment, Exposure, Fans, Genre, Hear, House, Jazz, Listen, Live, Loud, Merchandise, Mood, Moshing, Performances, Promote, Pubs, Recorded, Release, Rhythm, Rise, Rock, Scream, Screens, Shows, Single, Songs, Stand, System, Tempo, Time, Tours, Venues
Yesterday's Answer: Sag Harbor
SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate, Inc.) in the book store. \$1 per copy for each additional book. Send to: Wonderword, 1160 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

House for rent OR lease

2 storey, 2,545 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, large rooms, fenced yard, private, nice view. Big terraces & porch. Back up generator, watertank, washer/dryer. A/C in every room, semi-furnished. Must see. Located in Papago. Rent \$1,200/month available in May. Also available for lease. Call Sandy or Joe (671-988-1702) email:unai61@hotmail.com





VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court announces the position of Administrative Officer.

NATURE OF WORK: The incumbent under this position works under the direct supervision of the Director of Courts. The incumbent will provide administrative support in assigned areas of the administrative operations for the Supreme Court. The incumbent is responsible for supervising and performing administrative assignments in assigned areas of the administrative operations including areas such as: human resources/personnel, budget and finance, procurement of goods and services, community outreach, liaising with general public, and maintenance of the Judicial Complex.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Administrative Officer should hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university and possess a minimum of two years related work experience.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be negotiable.

INTERESTED PERSONS should submit their resume and complete OPM application to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, at the Guma' Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan. For additional information about this position, call (670)236-9708. Resume and application must be received by 12:00 noon on April 17, 2009.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

PACIFIC RIM INTERNATIONAL 2F MACARANAS BLDG., BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN

AGAT: 3-bed, 3.5 ba, office, 2-story, 3,000 ft, Jacuzzi tub, many upgrades, ocean views...\$350,000

MT. TAPOCHAU: 5-bed, 4-bath, 2,900 ft, unfinished interior, panoramic ocean views...\$220,000

PAPAGO: 3-bed, 2-ba, 2-story, pool, Jacuzzi, 1,500 sqm lot, central a/c, etc...\$179,900

SAN ANTONIO: 5-bed, 3.5 ba, 2-story, 2,650 ft, newly renovated, plus 1,700 ft aux. bldg...\$139,000

ANAKS CONDO: 2-bed, 1.5 ba, 1,250 ft, pool, tennis court, stand-by power, filtered water, etc...\$100,000

KOBLERVILLE: 3-bed, 2-ba, 1,216 ft, plus 2-bed guesthouse, newly renovated...\$69,000

DENNI: 3-bed, 1-ba, fully concrete, 800 sqm lot...\$50,000

COMMERCIAL:

CAPITOL HILL: 60-unit apartment/commercial complex w/ \$300K annual net income...\$3.5 million

SAN VICENTE: 20-unit apartment bldg., 3-story, 30,000 sqm lot, ocean views...\$650,000

SOUTH GARAPAN: 28,800 ft retail/warehouse bldg., beach road frontage...call for price

FORECLOSURES:

CHALAN KANO: 4-unit apartment, 7-bed, 4-ba, 2,350 ft, concrete, near CK post office...\$75,000

KAGMAN: 2-bed, 1-ba, concrete, ocean views...\$45,000

ROTA: Three bldgs. w/4,500 ft in Sinapalo, plus 24,999 sqm lot w/ocean views near airport...\$83,500

TINIAN: Four 3-bedroom homes, two in village, two w/hillside ocean views...\$145,000

LAND:

PUERTO RICO: 5,234 sqm, near port of Saipan, Managaha views, paved road access...\$130,850

MT. TAPOCHAU: 2,999 sqm, cleared and graded for development, ocean and sunset views...\$70,000

For information on these, and other available real estate, contact:

TIM GOODWIN
PACIFIC RIM INTERNATIONAL
p: 670-234-9351 • c: 670-483-9351 • f: 670-234-3230
e: tgoodwin@saipan.com • www.pacificriminternational.com

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GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 4
from 7am - ?.
Kagman Rd. 1/2
mile from Mobil
Station, second
house on right.
Lots of stuff.
Household
items, toys,
clothes, twin
size bed, adult
bicycle, misc.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BT. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BT Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Backup Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

AUTOMOTIVE

Looking for used cars, Nissan, Echo, Corrola & Camry. Year 2000 thru 2005 models. We pay cash. Call 323-7676

WANTED TO LEASE

Looking for house/property. Good location! Lease for 55 yrs. Budget \$45,000 & below. We pay cash. Pls. call 323-7676

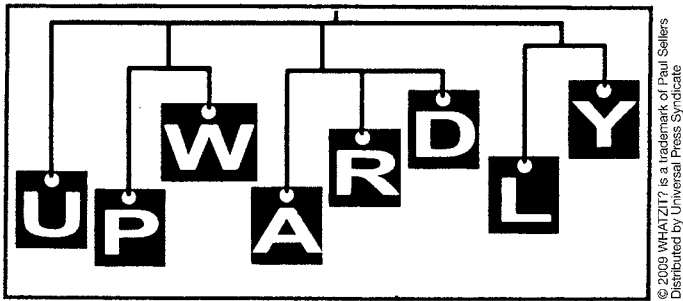


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235-NEWS

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID

ITB09-GOV-079

Renovation of Government Building No. 1353 – CIP Office

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation of Government Building No. 1353 CIP Office, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available on March 27, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on April 07, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 07, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB09-GOV-079"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, April 13, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time April 13, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 13, 2009 and must be received no later than April 22, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 23, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on April 14, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by ninety (90) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial, Governor
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
 Procurement and Supply, DOF



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
 P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid

IFB 09-011

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Ladera International School of Saipan (LISS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, NM 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-011" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **April 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-011" **CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination** (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Ms. Rita B. Dela Cruz, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruzr@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards, or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
 Commissioner of Education

/S/ Rita B. Dela Cruz
 Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
 P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
 Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GENERATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SERVICES PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services of the Saipan International Airport's Backup Generator System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services and operation of its two (2) 1.8 megawatt Caterpillar generators and ASCO controls at the Saipan International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, March 6, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Generator Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services"*. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
 Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 25, 2009



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
 P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP 09-013

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the **Supply of Diesel, Unleaded Gasoline, Lubricating Oil, and Fluids for its School Bus and Vehicle Fleets on Tinian**. Detailed information on the scope of work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **April 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Ms. Rita B. Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruzr@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, and others, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
 Commissioner of Education

/S/ Rita B. Dela Cruz
 PSS Acting, P&S Officer

Allen's 3-pointer gives Boston 111-109 win



BOSTON (AP)—Ray Allen made a 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left in the second overtime Wednesday night to lift the Boston Celtics to a 111-109 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats and into second place in the Eastern Conference.

The Bobcats, fighting for the final playoff spot in the conference, blew leads in the last 30 seconds of the fourth quarter and both overtimes and fell 1 1/2 games behind the Chicago Bulls, who were idle. The Celtics moved a game ahead of Orlando, which lost to Toronto.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 32 points, Allen added 22 and Rajon Rondo had 21 points and nine assists. Gerald Wallace had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Bobcats, and Boris Diaw scored 17 points.

After Allen's go-ahead basket, Raja Bell took a jumper that just missed at the buzzer.

That's also how the first overtime ended—a 3-pointer by Allen with 12.4 seconds left that tied the game at 101, and a miss by Bell from the right corner.

The game was tied at 103 early in the second overtime before Wallace hit a layup and Allen made a 3-pointer for a 106-105 Boston lead. Raymond Felton put the Bobcats ahead with a jumper, then Pierce gave the Celtics a 108-107 lead by converting an offensive rebound.

Emeka Okafor's short bank shot with 46 seconds to play put the Bobcats ahead for the last time, 109-108. Allen then air-balled a 3-point shot, but Felton missed and Boston's Eddie House rebounded with 11.3 seconds left, setting up Allen's final shot.

The Bobcats let another lead slip away when the Celtics sent the game into overtime tied at 93 by scoring the last eight points of the fourth quarter. They had a chance to win when Pierce inbounded the ball to Rondo with 3.6 seconds left, but Rondo missed a layup.

Boston, with Kevin Garnett sidelined for the third straight game (and 16th of the last 20) with a sore right knee, won for the seventh time in eight games. Charlotte's winning streak ended at three.

The Bobcats also missed a chance for a rare double: beating both of the previous season's NBA Finals opponents on consecutive nights. They won 94-84 on Tuesday night over the Los Angeles Lakers, who lost the championship series 4-2 to the Celtics.

Trailing 62-53, the Bobcats used

scrappy defense to take control in the third quarter. They went on a 21-3 run in a span of 9:41 to take a 74-65 on a dunk by Okafor with 54 seconds left in the quarter. It was one of his three dunks in that surge in which Wallace also scored eight points.

The Bobcats scored eight of the first 10 points in the fourth quarter to go ahead 85-73 on Felton's driving basket with 8:48 remaining. Then Boston came back with a 10-4 surge and cut the lead to 89-83 on Rondo's fastbreak layup with 4:15 left.

Mavericks 98, Heat 96

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 30 points, and Josh Howard had 20 points and drew a game-saving foul with 2.3 seconds left in Dallas' victory over Miami.

The Mavericks beat the Heat for the 10th straight time, although that's only the regular season. Miami climbed from an 0-2 deficit to win the next four and claim the 2006 title.

Dwyane Wade had 23 points and six assists, but wasn't able to pull off any late-game heroics, in part because of stiff defense by Jason Kidd.

Lakers 104, Bucks 98

At Milwaukee, Kobe Bryant rebounded from a rough shooting night to hit his first seven from the field and score 30 points, Pau Gasol had eight of his 15 in the fourth quarter, and Los Angeles beat Milwaukee.

Lamar Odom added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who were playing the finale of a grueling seven-game road trip and coming off two straight losses.

Ramon Sessions had his first career triple-double for the Bucks, who fell four games out of the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot. Sessions finished with 16 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds.

Raptors 99, Magic 95

At Orlando, Fla., Chris Bosh had 24 points, including a 22-footer over Dwight Howard with 29 seconds left that put the game out of reach, and Toronto beat Orlando.

Jose Calderon had 21 points, and Shawn Marion added 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Raptors, who nearly blew an 11-point lead before holding on to extend their season-high winning streak to five games. Rashard Lewis missed a potential tying 3-pointer with 20 seconds left to seal Toronto's win.



Boston Celtics' Ray Allen (20) shoots over Charlotte Bobcats guard Raja Bell (19) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston on Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

Dwight Howard had 30 points and nine rebounds for Orlando (55-19), which fell percentage points behind Boston for the Eastern Conference's second seed.

Suns 114, Rockets 109

At Phoenix, Steve Nash had 25 points and 17 assists, and Phoenix held on to beat Houston to breathe a little life into its flickering playoff hopes.

Grant Hill had 23 points, Shaquille O'Neal 22 and Jason Richardson 18 as the Suns won their season-best sixth straight at home. Phoenix snapped a three-game losing streak overall to remain four games behind Dallas for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West, with just seven to play.

Ron Artest scored 28 for the Rockets, who dropped to fourth in the crowded scramble for playoff positioning in the West.

Hornets 104, Clippers 98

At Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 30 points and 14 assists, David West added 19 points, and New Orleans moved closer to the top of the Southwest Division by beating Los Angeles.

The Hornets are just one game behind idle San Antonio in the Southwest Division and a half-game behind Houston, which lost in Phoenix.

Eric Gordon scored 11 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, including a jumper that put Los Angeles ahead by one. Zach Randolph added 24 for

the Clippers, who lost their ninth straight to New Orleans.

Nets 111, Pistons 98

At East Rutherford, N.J., Devin Harris had 19 points and 11 assists, and New Jersey snapped a season-high, five-game losing streak by beating sluggish Detroit.

Keyon Dooling, inserted into the starting lineup to give the team more life, scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half in helping the reeling Nets win for only the seventh time in 24 games. The point total matched his season high.

Richard Hamilton scored 29 points for the Pistons, who were playing their fourth game in five nights. They were also without Rasheed Wallace, who was suspended for picking up his 16th technical foul the night before.

Grizzlies 112, Wizards 107

At Memphis, Tenn., Rudy Gay scored 25 points and Mike Conley added 22 to lead Memphis over Washington for its first home win since the All-Star break.

Marc Gasol and O.J. Mayo scored 18 points apiece. Gasol grabbed nine rebounds, and Mayo had seven assists. Hakim Warrick had 12 points.

Caron Butler had 31 points for Washington, which lost its third straight, while Antawn Jamison had 28 points and 10 rebounds. Reserve Nick Young had 16 points and Javaris Crittenton finished with 13 points and a career-high 11 rebounds.

Warriors 143, Kings 141, OT

At Oakland, Calif., Monta Ellis scored a career-high 42 points to overcome Kevin Martin's career-best 50, and Golden State snapped a five-game losing streak with an overtime victory over Sacramento in another wild game befitting the NBA's two worst defensive teams.

Ronny Turiaf made the go-ahead free throw with 12.2 seconds left for the Warriors, who blew a four-point lead late in regulation and then missed two free throws in the final moments of overtime to keep the Kings in it.

Beno Udrih scored 18 points and tied it for Sacramento late in regulation with a length-of-the-court drive for a layup. But after Martin missed a potential go-ahead jumper in the lane with 6 seconds left in overtime, Udrih couldn't make a bank shot right before the buzzer for the Kings, who missed their final seven shots.

Stallworth charged with DUI manslaughter in crash



MIAMI (AP)—Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth was charged Wednesday with killing a pedestrian last month while driving drunk after a night out at a swank South Beach nightclub.

An arrest warrant charging Stallworth, 28, with DUI manslaughter was filed in the March 14 accident that killed 59-year-old Mario Reyes. If convicted, Stallworth would face up to 15 years in prison.

Stallworth's blood-alcohol level after the crash was .126, well above Florida's legal limit of .08, according to results of a blood test. Stallworth will also be charged with DUI,

which carries a possible six-month sentence plus fines and community service for first offenders.

"Whenever a deadly accident occurs and a driver is impaired, families suffer," said Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle in a statement. "I can only repeat this message over and over: If you are going to drink, don't drive."

Stallworth, who is expected to surrender in court Thursday, released a statement last month saying he was "grief-stricken" over the accident. Prosecutors said they will ask that he be released on \$200,000 bail.

The Browns said in a statement that they are "disappointed" that Stallworth has put himself in this position.

"We are saddened by the circumstances that have taken place and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Mario Reyes," the statement said. "We have been in communication with the commissioner, who is reviewing the situation under league policies, and we will withhold further comment at this time."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league will review the case under its conduct and substance abuse policies.

"As the state attorney has said, this was a tragic accident that raises serious issues and we join all those who have expressed their sympathies to the Reyes family," Aiello said.

Stallworth will be prohibited from driving while on bail and not allowed to

drink alcohol, according to court documents. He also must observe a midnight to 6 a.m. curfew and submit to random alcohol and drug testing through the NFL's substance abuse program.

A Miami Beach police report said Reyes was not in a crosswalk on busy MacArthur Causeway when he was struck by the black 2005 Bentley luxury car driven by Stallworth. The construction crane operator was trying to catch a bus home after finishing his shift around 7:15 a.m.

The report also quoted Stallworth as saying he flashed his lights at Reyes in an attempted warning and that Stallworth was driving about 50 mph in a 40 mph zone.

An additional police affidavit filed

Wednesday said that on the morning of the crash, Stallworth was drinking at a club in the posh Fountainebleau hotel on South Beach. He left to go to a nearby home—it's not clear if it was one of his three Miami-area properties—and then headed out to the causeway where Reyes was struck.

"I hit the man lying in the road," Stallworth told officers arriving to investigate the crash, according to the affidavit. One officer smelled alcohol on Stallworth's breath and said that his eyes appeared bloodshot and watery.

Stallworth's attorney Christopher Lyons did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

Stallworth signed a seven-year, \$35 million contract with the Browns before last season but was injured much of the year. He previously played for New England, Philadelphia and New Orleans.

UConn ready to invade Spartan country

By ANDREW BAGNATO
AP SPORTS WRITER



As the higher seed, the Connecticut Huskies will wear their white home uniforms against Michigan State in the national semifinals Saturday.

The rest of Ford Field will probably be awash in Spartans green.

This spring, there's nothing neutral about the Final Four.

The Huskies' third trip to the Final Four is a virtual road game: Michigan State's East Lansing campus is 90 miles from Detroit, and many in the expected record crowd of 70,000-plus will be Spartans fans.

"We'll have the white uniforms on. That's as close we'll get to being a home team, I think," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said on a Final Four coaches teleconference Monday. "I'm very aware ... that there will be a little bit of noise for the guys in green. No question."

Ford Field, the domed home of the Detroit Lions, is expected to set the record for the largest Final Four attendance in the 71-year history of the event. Last spring, the stadium drew 114,591 to the two sessions of the Midwest regional, another record.

The larger configuration opened up more seats to local fans, a goal of the tournament committee, and NCAA organizers say about one in seven spectators will be Michigan residents.

That can only work to Michigan State's advantage, although playing



Calhoun



Izzo



Wright



Williams

in Ford Field didn't help the Spartans much in a hideous 98-63 loss to North Carolina on Dec. 3.

And the Huskies (31-4) hardly shrink when they venture out of Connecticut.

UConn went 9-1 on the road this year, its only loss coming at then-No. 3 Pittsburgh on March 7, and the Huskies are 8-1 in neutral-site games, losing only to

Syracuse in six overtimes in the Big East tourney in Madison Square Garden.

Though they're a No. 2 seed and finished first in the rough-and-tumble Big Ten, the Spartans (30-6) are being portrayed as gritty underdogs carrying the hopes of a depressed region.

"We've always stated our team's a blue-collar team ever since I came

here," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "And there's no better blue-collar city than Detroit, and all the things they go through."

Michigan State hopes to fare better on this visit to Ford Field. But there may be an upside to the Spartans' 35-point loss to Carolina, which was part of a rugged nonconference schedule that included games against Kansas, Oklahoma State and Maryland and trips to Texas and Wichita State.

That competition helped steel the Spartans for the rigors of the NCAA tournament - and it may have paid off when they beat Big East champion Louisville in the Midwest regional final in Indianapolis, about 115 miles from the Cardinals' campus.

"I do think we became a little closer and a little tougher team," Izzo said. "I'd say the way we played the last two weeks, I think it helped it some, I really do."

Duke is the last team to play in a Final Four in its home state, losing to Arkansas in the 1994 national final in Charlotte.

Report: Floyd talks to Arizona about job

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Southern California coach Tim Floyd visited Tucson on Wednesday to talk about the vacant Arizona coaching job, the Tucson Citizen reported on its Web site.

Floyd has emerged as a potential permanent successor to Hall of Famer Lute Olson, who retired last October.

Phoenix radio station KTAR cited multiple sources as saying Floyd would get the job. But there was no confirmation elsewhere that discussions had gotten that far.

The newspaper cited an unidentified

source, and reported it was not clear if Floyd had been offered the job.

Floyd has led the Trojans to the NCAA tournament three straight times, and this year he coached them to the Pac-10 tournament title.

Russ Pennell was interim coach for Arizona this season, leading the Wildcats to a 21-14 record and an NCAA appearance.

Messages left at Arizona athletic director Jim Livengood's home and on his cell phone were not returned Wednesday night.

Yankees' Joba Chamberlain pleads guilty to DUI charge



LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—New York Yankees pitcher Joba Chamberlain

pleaded guilty Wednesday to a Nebraska charge of drunken driving and was given probation.

After a plea deal, prosecutors dropped the second charge of driving with an open alcohol container.

Chamberlain, 23, played for Nebraska in college.

He was pulled over Oct. 18 by police on the outskirts of Lincoln. Authorities say his blood-alcohol level was 0.134 percent. The legal limit in Nebraska is 0.08 percent.

"You probably worked long and hard to get where you are today," Judge Laurie Yardley said before sentencing Chamberlain to nine months' probation. "It takes about 10 seconds to wipe all that out." Chamberlain nodded and said, "Yes, ma'am," and Yardley told him "don't come back."

He'll also pay a \$400 fine, lose his license for 60 days and complete an alcohol education class.

Chamberlain's court date had been rescheduled four times, most recently from Tuesday to Wednesday.

He flew to Nebraska for his hearing in Lincoln after pitching 5 1-3 innings in New York's 6-3 win over Cincinnati on Tuesday during a spring training game in Florida.

Chamberlain declined to comment after the hearing but said he would release a statement.

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All Schools qualifiers resume next week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Trials for the 2009 McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships will resume next week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Qualifying tournaments for the running, throwing, and jumping events in the All Schools started last week with elementary, junior high, and high school student-athletes from Public School System joining the trials.

Next week, from April 6 to 8, Northern Marianas Athletics, which is organizing the trials, will be having qualifiers for the 100m, 200m, 1500m, and 4x100m relay



High School and junior high school student-athletes participate in the 3,000m steeplechase qualifier for the 2009 McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

runs, and long jump.

These events are for 8-and-under, 10-and-under and 12-

and-under student-athletes from Mt. Carmel School, Grace Christian Academy, Calvary

Christian Academy, Saipan International School, Seventh Day Adventist, Brilliant Star, Saipan

Community School, and Ladera International School.

Also set for April 8 are qualifiers for high school and junior high. Invited to join the junior high trials are Hopwood, GCA, Whispering Palms, CCA, SIS, SCS, and Chacha Oceanview. The high school qualifiers are to Marianas High School, Saipan Southern, GCA, SIS, Kagman High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Northern Marianas Academy.

Trials for junior high and high school will continue on April 16 and 23 with 13 events, namely 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1500m runs, 4x100m and 4x400m relay races, shot put, discuss, and javelin throw, and long and high jump.

The next qualifiers for 12-

and-under, 10-and-under, and 8-and-under are scheduled for April 13 to 15, and April 20 to 22. Events to be played in these dates are 400m and 800m runs, and 4x400m relay race, softball throw, and javelin throw.

Only the Top 8 student-athletes in each event are eligible to compete in the All Schools, which will be held on May 9. The remaining two slots are reserved for Rota and Tinian students. In case Tinian and Rota do not have participants in an event, the next two finishers will take the slots. Also, student-athletes are allowed to join only four events.

For more information about the schedule of qualifiers, contact NMA's Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or via email at eli_rang@yahoo.com.

Tawanpiy wins RGA March Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Asterio Tawanpiy had a triumphant return to Kingfisher Golf Links Sunday, as he claimed the RGA March Ace of the Month title.

Tawanpiy, who two weeks ago struggled against the windy

condition at the Talafofo facility during the Refaluwasch Golf Association qualifying tournament for the March Ace, came back with vengeance, shooting a 1-over par 73.

The 9-handicapper scored an even par 36 on the front and a 37 on the back for a net 64 to beat Joe Wabol and 18 other RGA members who aimed for

the March Ace title.

Wabol set the score to beat in last month's qualifier, firing a net 67. Tawanpiy competed in the same tournament, but nailed only a net 78 before finally notching the monthly plum in his second attempt.

In second place in last weekend's tournament was Dwayne Stephens, who was a stroke short

of tying Tawanpiy's mark. The 18-handicapper Stephens carded a 42 and 41 on the front and back nines for a gross 83 and a net 65. Cui Xian Lai, a 17-handicapper, had a 43 on the front and 42 on the back from a gross 85 and net 68 to finish third.

There was a tie for fourth to sixth place with Joe Wabol winning the tiebreak in the scorecard playoff on the front nine. He had a net 31 in the first nine holes. The 24-handicapper

Wabol tallied a 43 and 50 on the front and back nines for a gross 93 and net 69.

Also making a net 69, but dropping to fifth with a net 36 on the from was Jess Wabol, who recorded the lowest gross score of the day with a 1-under par 71 after hitting a 37 on the front and 34 on the back. Tars Olopai settled for sixth place, as he had a 37.5 on the front nine after scoring a 42 and 36 on the front and back nines, respectively.

DOCOMO

From Page 36

due to foul trouble.

Docomo tried pulling away in the fourth period, leading by as much as 13 points, 87-74, before Jericho Cruz anchored a Nationals' comeback, going into the last two minutes of the game. Cruz's triple from the right corner tied the match at 106-all, with 1:07 left in the fourth period.

Mel Manibusan drove to the basket and missed, but Kelvin Fitia was there for an offensive rebound and a putback, giving the lead back to Docomo, 108-106.

Iguel tried his luck from

downtown in the Nationals' next offensive set, but missed his triple from the right corner of the court. Mark Wallace grabbed the rebound and drew a foul from Allen Moses, who had to leave the game after getting his fifth foul. Wallace made both charities to widen the gap, 110-106, with 40.6 seconds left on the clock.

The Nationals faltered, anew, in their ensuing play when Iguel drove to the baseline, committed himself in midair against the outstretched arms of Manibusan, and at the last minute went for a drop pass to Tumaquip. Tumaquip fumbled, as he was not expecting the pass and was called for a 3-second violation, giving

possession back to Docomo.

But the Nationals got the ball back quickly when Cruz stole Manibusan's crosscourt pass, went for a triple, and muffed the shot. James Villacrusis then colared the rebound and passed the ball to Wallace, who was fouled by Tumaquip. Wallace canned both free throws to seal the win for Docomo, with 17.3 seconds remaining in the game.

Tumaquip was the fifth Nationals player who had to sit to the bench due to five fouls. Quincy Johnson fouled out first midway in the fourth, followed by Camacho, Joseph White, and then Moses, who left the court with less than a minute left in the final canto.

Injured Jayvan Tarkong, who

twisted his left knee in their game against Ol'Aces two weeks ago, was forced to play, relieving the fouled out Moses. In the last 17.3 seconds of the game, the Nationals were left with four players—Cruz, Iguel, Chariton, and Tarkong.

Meanwhile, tonight's games will be played at the Garapan Basketball Court. Ol'Aces will duel Diamond Auto Shop in the first game at 6:30pm, while the Runnin' Rebels will collide with Quichocho in the second match at 8pm.

The winner of the Ol'Aces-Diamond tiff will meet Docomo for the first finals slot on Monday.

First Game

Ol'Aces 115 – White 20,

Renguul 20, P. Camacho 16, Pelisamen 14, Rangamar 13, C. Camacho 9, Olaitiman 8, Omar 4.

Quichocho Law Office 84 – Barbo 22, Cadagat 16, Lerio 16, Tagle 12, Demapan 10, Palero 3, Capalad 2, Itaas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-18, 54-48, 78-61, 115-84.

Second Game

Docomo 112 – Wallace 29, Fitia 27, Paul 13, Sanciangco 13, Jo. Villacrusis 12, Ja. Villacrusis 9, Manibusan 8, Rasa 2.

CNMI Nationals 106 – Cruz 38, Iguel 25, Tumaquip 12, Johnson 8, Camacho 6, Moses 6, Chariton 4, White 3.

Scoring by quarters: 20-22, 56-46, 77-68, 112-106.

GUAM

From Page 36

Dunn and Dunlop-Nicholls tiff will square off with the tandem of Kirk Schuler and Peter Loyola Saturday afternoon for the other finals ticket.

Besides the men's open doubles, eight other divisions will hold doubles competitions.

The men's 4.0 division will

have eight pairs, while seven duos are entered in the men's 3.0.

The women's open has three pairs, the mixed 4.0 has six tandems, and the mixed open has four teams.

There will also be competitions in three divisions in the juniors doubles.

In the boys' 14-and-under, participants are the pairs of Dylan Ackerman-Quintin Ramsey, John Cano-Lucas Nutting, Ken-

nedy Izuka-Chris Park, Rafael Jones/Andrew Johnson, and Nathan Nutting-Chris Cajigan.

Miller, who won last week against Rafael Jones in the singles finals in the boys' 14-and-under division, will also play in the doubles tournament, but has yet to name his partner.

The pairs of Rafael Jones-Johnson and Nathan Nutting-Cajigan drew byes in the first round.

Only two teams will play in

in six outings.

D-9ers 13, Young Guns 3

D-9ers smothered the Young Guns, 13-3, on Monday night for their third consecutive victory, as they momentarily seized the solo lead before the Rangers tied them, two days later.

Both D-9ers and Young Guns

the girls' 14-and-under with the duos of Amy Arenovski-Neghar Rastguay and Tammy Ackerman-Gabrielle Race battling for the title on Sunday.

The boys' 10-and-under will have four pairs with Clayton Izuka-Alex Park facing the duo of Michael Jones and Kui Lee. The other pairing will have Colin Ramsey-Carl Dela Cruz dueling Moris Villanueva and partner.

Meanwhile, an awards ban-

have finished their first round assignments.

The Young Guns are still winless after five matches with four playing dates left in the first round of the regular season.

Jonathan Tenorio and Paul Camacho pitched in the D-9ers' overpowering win against the slumping Young Guns.

In offense, the D-9ers made a

quet will be held on Sunday after the doubles matches with PIC also recognizing winners in last week's singles competition.

Ji Hoon Heo is included on the list after winning the men's open singles against Schuler. Joining Heo in the elite group are Dong Min Lee, Denis Karyakin, Thea Minor, Miller, Carl Dela Cruz, Melody Johnson, Tammy Ackerman, and Eun Kyong Lee.

total of 13 hits and nine RBIs to complete the rout.

Defending champion Rock Steady (4-1) will take on Korean Phoenix (0-3) in tonight's game.

A total of four games are left before the start of the second round, including the rained out game between Phoenix and Young Guns originally scheduled last March 23.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	57	19	.750	—
Philadelphia	38	35	.521	17 1/2
New Jersey	31	44	.413	25 1/2
Toronto	29	45	.392	27
New York	29	46	.387	27 1/2

Central Division				
y-Cleveland	61	13	.824	—
Detroit	36	39	.480	25 1/2
Chicago	36	40	.474	26
Indiana	32	43	.427	29 1/2
Milwaukee	32	44	.421	30

Southeast Division				
y-Orlando	55	19	.743	—
x-Atlanta	43	32	.573	12 1/2
Miami	39	36	.520	16 1/2
Charlotte	34	41	.453	21 1/2
Washington	17	59	.224	39

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
x-San Antonio	48	26	.649	—
x-Houston	48	27	.640	0 1/2
New Orleans	47	27	.635	1
Dallas	45	30	.600	3 1/2
Memphis	20	54	.270	28

Northwest Division				
x-Denver	49	26	.653	—
Portland	47	27	.635	1 1/2
Utah	46	28	.622	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	21	53	.284	27 1/2
Minnesota	21	54	.280	28

Pacific Division				
z-LA Lakers	59	16	.787	—
Phoenix	41	34	.547	18
Golden State	25	49	.338	33 1/2
LA Clippers	18	57	.240	41
Sacramento	16	57	.219	42

Yesterday's Games				
Boston 111, Charlotte 109				
Dallas 98, Miami 96				
LA Lakers 104, Milwaukee 98				
Toronto 99, Orlando 95				
Phoenix 114, Houston 109				
New Orleans 104, LA Clippers 98				
New Jersey 111, Detroit 98				
Memphis 112, Washington 107				
Golden State 143, Sacramento 141, OT				

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SML STANDINGS

Ford Rangers	5	1
D-9ers	5	1
Rock Steady	4	1
Falcons	3	3
Tigers	1	4
Korean Phoenix	0	3
Young Guns	0	5

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

DCCA	19	0
Beach Boys	16	3
Freedom Air	15	3
Docomo	15	4
No Zone	14	5
Joeten Motor Jets	13	6
CPA	13	6
Legislature	11	8
POI	9	9
P&S	9	10
CUC	8	11
CHC	7	11
PSS	7	11
CRM/DEQ	7	12
DLNR	7	12
PIC	5	14
Mayors	4	15
Customs	4	15
Law & Order	3	16
Hopwood	1	18

RANGERS

From Page 36

before Franco Flores relieved him with no out in the top of the eighth inning.

Kapileo doubled to send J.R. Suel home and the Falcons moved to within a run of the Joeten Motors-sponsored

team's lead.

Flores got the second out on Dikito following a 6-4 play and Ned Norita was retired on a flyout to shortstop for the third out, as the Rangers preserved the win, their fifth in six outings this season.

The Rangers at 5-1 now join the D-9ers on top, while the Falcons suffered their third setback

Settsu considers return to Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Settsu Red Impulse is hoping to return to Saipan after enjoying a receptive home crowd during 2009 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament.

Susumu Sakaguchi, one of the assistant coaches of Red Impulse, said they appreciated spectators at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, which hosted the inaugural caging from March 26 to 27.

"We were the visiting team, but they were cheering for us. Our players were inspired to play for two days here because of the crowd and because of the appreciative crowd, we intend to return next year," said Susumu Sakaguchi through interpreter Yoshiro Kishimoto, president of Biz Aid Saipan Enterprises.

Biz Aid through Marianas Visitors Authority brought Settsu Red Impulse, an Osaka-based club, on Saipan. The group visited various historical sites in its first few days on Saipan and then played against the island's best last Thursday and Friday with Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands organizing the two-day caging.

Settsu fielded a boys' 16-and-under team and girls' 14-and-under squad in the tournament.

Settsu's cagers held their ground against the junior varsity team of Mari-



Settsu's Kyosuke Hidari, right, uses a pick from Shinya Yamamoto, left, to elude an MHS defender during their game in the 2009 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Miller Lite Mahi Fishing Derby tomorrow



The Saipan Fishermen's Association and Marianas Visitors Authority said all systems are a go for the 5th Annual Miller Lite Mahi Fishing Derby tomorrow, April 4, at Smiling Cove Marina from 6am to 5pm.

About 40 boats are already expected to join the one-day event, which is still accepting registration from all interested individuals wanting to vie for a cash prize or just enjoy a day of trolling. The pre-registration and orientation for the trolling event is set for today at the marina from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, where SFA officials will also provide a briefing on the derby rules and regulations.

The last opportunity to register will be Saturday morning at 5:30am at the marina.

The derby will consist of five categories. Cash and in-kind prizes will be awarded for all Top 5 finishers, including \$1,500 first prize for first place. The entry fee is \$100 for three anglers, with an additional \$25 per angler.

Spectators are invited to see the day's catch as fishermen begin returning to Smiling Cove Marina at approximately 4pm on derby day. The awards banquet will take place after the derby at the marina weighing station from 6pm to 9pm.

Sponsors for this year's event include Pepsi, Monster Drink, Gatorade, Shell Marianas, Docomo Pacific, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Safety 1st Systems, and Pa-

cific Rainbow Paints.

Registration forms are available at the MVA office in San Jose near Microl Corp., Fishing Tackle in Susupe, or Best Fishing in Garapan. For more information about the event or an electronic registration form, contact Frank Tudela at Marianas Visitors Authority at 1 (670) 664-3200, or via e-mail at ftudela@mymarianas.com.

SFA also noted that all participating boats must observe safe boating rules and regulations, as failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the boat

from the derby. A registered boater will not qualify for reimbursement if disqualification is due to negligence in furnishing the required safety equipments and current boating registration.

Last year, Capt. Rolly Trajeco and two crewmen of *Sea Craft Four* won the 4th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby after reeling in a 24.3-lb. mahi-mahi caught in Tinian waters.

Trajeco said he, Annie Legaspi, and Liody Bukid grappled with the monster mahi for about 15 minutes before heading back to Smiling Cove Marina a mere four hours after setting sail, confident that the 24-pounder they caught was the day's prize catch.

Trajeco said he was so confident with the weight of their mahi-mahi that they immediately pulled anchor and headed back to Saipan. They had their catch registered and weighed in a couple of hours before lunchtime.

The *Sea Craft* pilot's prediction turned out right, as Trajeco and company came away with the \$1,500 first place purse after barely beating out runner-up boat Tweety Bird which reeled in a mahi-mahi that tipped the scales at 24.25 lbs.

Captain Eric David and his *Tweety Bird* crewmen, composed of Gonzalo Pangelinan and Tak Nakazoto, pocketed \$1,000 for their effort.

Tony Maestro and Manding Legaspi wound up third this time after *DJ Fish Mobile* caught a 22.35-lb. mahi-mahi. (PR)



Capt. Rolly Trajeco, right, and Liody Bukid of *Sea Craft Four* pose with the prize-winning catch of the 4th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina weighing station last year. The mighty mahi weighed 24.3 lbs.

anas High School before losing by a point, 74-75.

"But although we lost against the home team, we still got support from the crowd and we love playing for the crowd," Sakaguchi said.

Several MHS teachers brought their classes to the gym to watch the games and show hospitality to the visitors. Some students from other schools also went to the gym to see the Japanese brand of basketball, which is fast-paced and involves a lot of ball movement.

Settsu's cagebells drew even more people, as they wowed spectators with their outside shots, good passing skills, and quick moves toward the basket.

The visitors went on to take the girls' 14-and-under title after beating the MISO Junior Varsity All-Stars, 61-44. Saipan Southern High School defeated the MHS Dolphins, 106-72, to claim the boys 16-and-under title.

Other schools that participated in the tournament were Hopwood, Chacha Oceanview, and Kagman High School.

Tournament coordinator Gabriel

White, on behalf of BANMI, thanked teacher's and principals of the participating schools for allowing their students to join the tournament.

BANMI also thanked the Physical Education Department of MHS for helping the association run the tournament at the MHS gym.

The association also acknowledged the assistance of MVA for hosting the awards banquet, Lawrence Camacho and Pete Igisomar for helping out in the barbecue dinner and Kishimoto, and Big Boyz Marine's Masani Yasuda for coordinating the arrival, accommodation, entertainment and departure of Settsu Red Impulse.

"And of course, we thanked Settsu for donating championship trophies, prizes for MVPs, tournament towels, and other basketball equipment to BANMI," White said.

"We hope to do have the tournament, again, next year, and hopefully in the coming years have more players and more Japanese teams going to Saipan to play basketball and experience our hospitality," White added.

Chong to fight in main event of ROP 7

TRENCH TECH Former Pacific Xtreme

Combat heavyweight champion Manny "The Enforcer" Chong of Guam will go up against Saipan's Tony Robert in the main event of Trench Warz Rites of Passage 7: Fist of Fury set on May 23 at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

Chong is a well-respected veteran of MMA events in Guam and is almost always featured in the main events of MMA fights in the U.S. territory.

Robert, meanwhile, is fighting out of Team Tech 9 and weighs 280 lbs.

Chong lost the heavyweight title to Saipan's Charlz "The Predator" Aiken in PXC 10: Final Redemption

at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in February 2007.

Aiken has just won a non-title fight in the undercard of the Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready" last Saturday over Guam's Mike Davis at the Saipan World Resort.



Chong

The semi-main event in the Rites of Passage 7: Fist of Fury will be between Guam's Jess "The Spiderman" Taitano and Saipan's Jay "Tabby" Muna.

Trench Tech president and promoter Cuki Alvarez said there will be 14 total bouts for the ROP 7.

Alvarez said tickets for this event will be sold at \$25 each. "All will be guaranteed to become VIP guests," he said. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

Hopwood scores first win after 19 games

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Hopwood finally nailed its first win against Saipan Mayor's Office, 15-14, Tuesday night in the Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballpark.

Behind by three runs going into the bottom of the seventh inning, Hopwood rallied with four runs with two outs to snap an 18-game losing skid.

It was Hopwoods' last game of the regular season and the win prevented a total shutout.

Lerins Tamtreng scored on Alex Sablan's single, Sablan followed suit on another Marco Palacios' single, while Dominic Tudela reached home on a walk by Tim Williams.

Ronald Gabionza hit a single that drove Frank Angel home for the clincher.

Hopwood (1-18) finished last among 20 teams and joined 10 other teams that are out of the playoff round, including Mayor's Office (4-15).

Tamtreng went 3-for-3 with four runs, two RBIs, a triple, and a double and Sablan was 3-for-4 and had two RBIs, two runs, a triple, and a double.

Wally Emul led the Mayor's Office on 4-for-4 at bat, with three runs, five RBIs, and a triple, as his team completed its regular season assignment with 4-15 win-loss record.

Beach Boys 11, CPA 3

The Beach Boys tightened their grip of solo second place in the playoff round by crushing Commonwealth Ports Authority, 11-3.

CPA tied Joeten Motor Jets with similar 13-6 records.

PSS 14, POI 9

Public School System closed out the season with a 7-11 record by defeating POI Aviation, 14-9.

Shortstop Kyle Kaipat sizzled with two homeruns on 3-for-4 at bat with five RBIs, three runs, and a double, as PSS dealt POI its ninth loss in 18 games.

But POI is already in the playoffs even if it drops its last regular season assignment against Freedom Air.



Allen's 3-pointer gives Boston 111-109 win

Ray Allen made a 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left in the second overtime Wednesday night to lift the Boston Celtics to a 111-109 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats and into second place in the Eastern Conference.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Settsu considers return to Saipan

Settsu Red Impulse is hoping to return to Saipan after enjoying a receptive home crowd during 2009 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Docomo nears finals, Ol'Aces win

Guam netters competing in PIC doubles tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Guam players are coming to Saipan this weekend to compete in the doubles tournament of the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Leading the list of Guam netters challenging Saipan bets is Guam Tennis Academy and former Davis Cupper Lency Tenai, who will be playing in

the men's open doubles.

Tenai, who is also Guam's national tennis coach, will be teaming up with Torgun Smith. The Guam duo will face the tandem of Nicholas Son and Jeff Race in the semifinals on Saturday.

Two more Guam players are entered in the men's open doubles in Bill Camacho and Ben Dunn, who will meet Saipan's Donn Dunlop and Nicky Nichols in the quarterfinals Saturday morning.

The winner of the Camacho-

See GUAM on Page 34



Men's 3.0 champion Denis Karyakin, seen here making a backhand return against Dong Ik Jang during their title match Sunday at the PIC hard court, will team up with Russell Buenaventura in the men's 4.0 doubles division of the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific and Ol'Aces boosted their finals bid in the 2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League after recording contrasting victories Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Docomo Pacific moved a win away from clinching the first finals ticket after thwarting the CNMI Nationals, 112-106, while Ol'Aces clobbered Quichocho Law Office, 115-84, and will be needing two more victories to advance to the title game.

The CNMI Nationals and Quichocho Law Office dropped to the loser's bracket and must win their next game to keep their finals bid alive in the double-elimination playoffs.

The Nationals were in control of the game in the first half, which ended at 56-46, before a late third-quarter surge allowed Docomo to take the driver's seat, 77-68.

The Nationals never recovered from thereon, as they began losing players one after another

See DOCOMO on Page 34



Docomo Pacific's Mark Wallace right, challenges the defense of the Nationals' Allen Moses and Pete Iguel, left, during their playoff game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rangers foil Falcons rally, 8-7

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Ford Rangers defeated the Falcons, 8-7, but not before foiling a late rally last Wednesday night in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan

Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

After the Ford Rangers erected a huge 8-0 lead, seven of them in the bottom of the third, the Falcons made the match interesting with four runs on five hits

in the top of the fourth inning.

Jess Taitano sparked the Falcons' rally with a two-run single followed by a two-run double by B.J. Sablan.

The Falcons scored two more

runs, as J.D. Dikito crossed home plate on a Nunu Kapileo double and Kapileo himself reached home on a pass ball to make it 6-8.

Starting pitcher Craig Sanchez gave up three more hits

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Battle ready indeed

Which sounds better: a) Friday Night Fights or b) Saturday Night's All Right for Fight-ing? That question is tough as an elbow to an eye socket.

Actually both terms work for me. Thankfully I've never had someone grind an elbow on my eye socket like I saw in the opening match (Leroy Sablan def. J.J. Malite) of Gorilla Warfare Battle Ready last Saturday night which, yes, was all right for fighting with epic matches pitting Saipan warriors against off-island talent of considerable proportions.

Mike "Da Ogre" Davis from Guam at 6'3" 319 lbs. outweighed his opponent Charlz Aiken by 83 lbs. That's worth about two legs.

I was surprised that the Saipan-Pohnpeian agreed to take the fight as Davis basically added the weight of a lawn mower since the match was first announced. He was not under any obligation to get into the ring against someone that much heavier. At first I didn't understand the decision but after mulling it awhile, it made sense.

Aiken thinks with his heart.

The ref could have stopped the fight after Davis floored Aiken. But the former Commonwealth Football League player got up to take on even more beating. I felt sorry for him but there was nothing I could do. His brain was being bashed. So he did the only thing he could do—put his head down and bull rush the Ogre, wrapping his arms around his legs and driving the monster into the mat on his hip bone. Ouch plus a hundred. He couldn't stand for at least 10 minutes. Fight over.

Aiken snatched victory from the jaws of defeat with a heart of steel resolve.

Interestingly enough, the crowd jeered when EMS brought in a stretcher but cheered politely when Davis finally limped out on his own tree trunks.

Saw only one spectator escorted out by security for unruly behavior, a sister of one of the fighters who vehemently questioned a call. Saw several beer cups thrown into the ring after Kelvin Fitial defeated Ed Carpenter.

More mayhem would have occurred if Fitial had lost after the referee had called the fight in his favor with a few seconds left in the first round but the match was allowed to continue. That was just

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

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one of the bad calls that night.

The Big Hit told me he didn't argue taking the bout into the second round because he wanted to show his fans more of what they came to see which was him fighting.

After the ref stopped the fight the final time, either Ed Zeppelin didn't hear the call or didn't agree I don't know, but he went after an unsuspecting opponent which was not fair, hence the display of outrage evidenced by flying cups of \$3 beer.

I didn't throw my cup. I drank from it. I don't waste beer.